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EVERTON'S REVIVAL SPECIAL REPORT

Ray Clemence
on Liverpool's
League Cup
Semi-Final clash
v. Man. City

'I'M LAZY'
confesses
Villa goal-ace
GARY SHAW
PAT JENNINGS
talks about his
future



SHOOT view!

GOODY luck to Martin Peters on his new appointment as team manager of Sheffield United.

He will need all the good fortune imaginable if he is to succeed at a club where so many others have failed.

Ted Davison, Reg Freeman, Joe Mercer, John Harris, Arthur Rowley, Ken Furphy, Jimmy Sirrel and Harry Haslam have managed the club since the last War with varying degrees of success and failure.

The sad fact of life is that Sheffield United has promised much but produced little of note in the time those managers ran the club, and it takes a man with a long memory to recall the good times.

United once won the Championship — in 1898. More than 60,000 fans poured through the turnstiles to watch a Fifth Round F.A. Cup-tie against Leeds United — but that glorious day at Bramall Lane was all of 45 years ago.

Harry Johnson was arguably the best goalscorer they have ever paraded. But he scored his 205 goals before 1930.

Now, Martin Peters attempts to arrest the decline after a distinguished career as a player at West Ham, Tottenham, Norwich and Sheffield United.

We say he needs a measure of luck because history suggests that his chances of succeeding where others failed are remote.

Soccer history dictates that good players rarely become good managers. Matt Busby, Bill Nicholson, Don Revie, John Bond, Terry Neill, John Barnwell, Colin Addison, Joe Mercer, Bill Shankly, Terry Venables, Bobby Robson and Jimmy Bloomfield are a few exceptions to the rule.

Peters will always be remembered as the lean England player who would ghost through a defence on the blind-side to score a match-winning goal.

Immortalised

He did it against West Germany in the 1966 World Cup Final and became immortalised as one of Alf Ramsey's history making superstars.

He went on to win 67 England caps and become one of our most distinguished players at international level.

Now, he enters the lion's den. He can no longer rely on exceptional football skills to defeat the opposition.

The list of bleeding corpses who left the pitch for management is long and includes Bobby Charlton, Stan Matthews, Pat Crerand, Tommy Lawton and Billy Wright.

They tried and failed. They set themselves up and were shot down.

When it comes to tactics, soccer skills and general know-how, Martin Peters has few peers in the British game.

As a new manager, he is a novice. There to be destroyed unless he gets to grips with his new appointment.

He has always been a courteous, rather quiet, well mannered professional. Now, he will have to bark a bit, snap at a player idling during training, and do many things foreign to his rather quiet nature.

Unless he can make the transition, he could be struggling.

If Martin Peters ever becomes a number on that death-list of managers who have lost their jobs with clubs since the War, football will suffer another bruise.

But then who can safeguard against that? No one. He has placed his head on the chopping-board as a player and must expect to do so again.

He has elected to accept that responsibility by taking the job. Let's hope he can survive the most rewarding and yet one of the most cruelly destructive jobs in the world.

Harry Haslam, now general-manager, will serve as a valuable ally in the early months of Peters' reign.

FOREST PLAYING THEMSELVES!

Intercontinental
Cup '81



ABOVE . . . Victorino (number 9) rises to head the goal that won the Copa Libertadores. He also scored Uruguay's winner in the recent Copa de Oro Final.

BELOW . . . Captain of Uruguay, goalkeeper Rodriguez is rated very highly in South America.

RIGHT . . . Nacional celebrate their victory in the Copa Libertadores, South America's equivalent of the European Cup.



Victory

Nacional, too, will be glad of the cash. Since the red, white and blues last won the Intercontinental Cup in 1971 both they and Uruguayan football in general has touched rock bottom, although Uruguay's Copa de Oro victory proved they are on the way back.

The Nacional fans claim that their club is Uruguay's oldest and were heartbroken by their lack of success.

The turning point came when Dante Iocco took over as Club president and set about reducing Nacional's short-term debts that totalled a quarter of a million pounds. He engaged club stalwart and ex-international Juan Martin Mujica as manager, even though he'd had no previous experience.

And the two of them chopped the 44-man payroll down to a squad of 18 and set about building a solid, smooth-running soccer

HISTORY OF THE INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

1960	REAL MADRID (Peñarol 5-1)
1961	PENAROL (Benfica 7-2)
1962	SANTOS (Benfica 8-4)
1963	SANTOS (AC Milan 7-6)
1964	INTER MILAN (Independiente 3-1)
1965	INTER MILAN (Independiente 3-0)
1966	PENAROL (Real Madrid 4-0)
1967	RACING (Celtic 3-2)
1968	ESTUDIANTES (Man. Utd. 2-0)
1969	AC MILAN (Estudiantes 4-2)
1970	FEYENOORD (Estudiantes 3-2)
1971*	NACIONAL (Panathinaikos 3-2)
1972	AJAX (Independiente 4-0)
1973*	INDEPENDIENTE (Juventus 1-0)
1974*	AT. MADRID (Independiente 2-1)
1975	Not Played
1976	BAYERN MUNICH (Cruzeiro 2-0)
1977*	BOCA JUNIORS (Borussia M'gladbach 5-2)
1978	Not played
1979*	OLIMPIA (Malmö 3-1)

* Europeans Champions declined to play. Runners-up took their place.

A balanced blend of youth and experience. A philosophy of securing results by keeping the opponents' score-sheet blank. A safe goalkeeper. A rock-steady defence that can be tough when needed. A mixture of hard work, tackling and creativity in midfield. And a couple of out-and-out strikers who have the knack of putting vital goals away. Even against the run of play. If you think that's a fair picture of Forest, it's in fact Nacional of Montevideo that we're describing! And as Cloughie's Army head for Japan in a bid to beat the Uruguayans for the Intercontinental Cup, they may find themselves face-to-face with a South American mirror-image of themselves . . .



machine, using veteran midfielder Victor Espárrago (36) as the mastermind among more youthful and less experienced team-mates.

The results were sensational, with Nacional romping home in the Uruguayan Championship and clinching the South American title, conceding only three goals in 12 matches.

In the Final, the super-talented Brazilians of Internacional Porto Alegre started as red-hot favourites, but Mujica's team held out for a 0-0 draw in Brazil and then clinched the title before 70,000 delirious fans when shaggy-haired striker Waldemar Victorino headed a 34th-minute winner in Montevideo's Centenario stadium.

Nacional's triumph restored the fans' belief in the quality of Uruguayan football, but Mujica's formula for success was based on building the team from the back.

Rodolfo Rodríguez, the national team skipper, rates as one of the Continent's best goalkeepers. And no South American defence can claim a better record than the Nacional back four of José Moreira, Juan Carlos Blanco, Hugo De León and Washington González.

Victor Espárrago is the king-pin in midfield, but the 1974 World Cup star is ably assisted by Arsenio Lizardo and Eduardo De La Peña, while Alberto Bica and

Julio César Morales (or his young understudy Dardo Pérez) work the flanks and provide the ammunition for Uruguay's most consistent scorer Waldemar Victorino.

"Don't make us out to be a great team," says manager Mujica, "because the truth is that we're not. We've got no outstanding individuals, and we owe our success to seriousness, sheer hard work, and our ability to mark man-for-man from one goalmouth to the other."

Formula

For this reason, the odds are likely to be on Forest when the two teams meet in Tokyo. Mujica's formula demands peak fitness and, with the South American season only just grinding back into action, Cloughie's team should have the edge on rhythm and match-practice.

What's more, seven of the Nacional stars were on duty with Uruguay during the recent Copa de Oro and risk starting the new campaign a little jaded.

And, even more seriously, the transfer of young central defender Hugo De León to Brazil's Gremio de Porto Alegre has left a gaping hole in Nacional's strongest department.

"We're not favourites," agrees Mujica, "but we aim to take on this match with a humble attitude and to defend the banner of Uruguayan football to the very best of our ability . . ."

Japanese fans behind Forest

"FOREST will have a definite advantage over Nacional," Tomio Nakano, Secretary of the Japanese Football Association (JFA), said about the European-South American Cup, which is to be played in Tokyo on February 11. "First," he explained, "the weather here in February is like that in England: cold, usually between eight and ten degrees centigrade. In Uruguay it is summer now and the sudden temperature change may cause problems for them."

"Second, and most important," he continued, "all of Japan will be rooting for Forest. We do not follow South American soccer. All our coverage comes from Europe. Japanese soccer magazines are filled with reports and pictures from countries like West Germany and England, especially England. Hence, most Japanese soccer fans know the English stars, including most Forest players."

The game, to be played in Tokyo's National Olympic Stadium (below), marks one of the highlights for Japanese soccer officials and fans.

"I am sure the game will create greater interest in the sport, which is what we need," said Keitaro Tsuchiya, an avid soccer fan and player in one of Japan's 100,000 amateur teams.

There are no professional soccer teams in Japan, although the First and Second amateur Divisions — consisting of ten teams each — are the Japanese equivalent of England's First and Second Division.

"We do not have that many opportunities to see skilful soccer," Tsuchiya said. "This is probably our only chance of the year. And, although most Japanese will be rooting for Forest, what we really want to see is good, exciting soccer."

Seven thousand tickets were sold within days of going on sale

on December 28, and officials are hoping for a capacity crowd of 62,000. If the attendance at the national high school soccer tournament finals (also played in Tokyo's National Stadium) on January 7 and 8 was any indication for the Cup game's attendance, officials can be assured of a sellout.

Over 39,000 supporters watched the Semi-Finals and a sellout crowd of 62,000 filled the stadium for the Finals.

"Soccer is not as popular here as it is in Europe or South America," said Osamu Matoji, sports journalist for *The Asahi Shimbun*, one of Japan's largest daily newspapers.

"It ranks with volleyball, rugby and basketball, but baseball is by far number one. Still, soccer's popularity is growing rapidly, as you can tell from the national high school tournament."

Concerns

The JFA is hoping that Japan will be selected as the permanent site for the title game. One of their chief concerns now is the condition of the pitch.

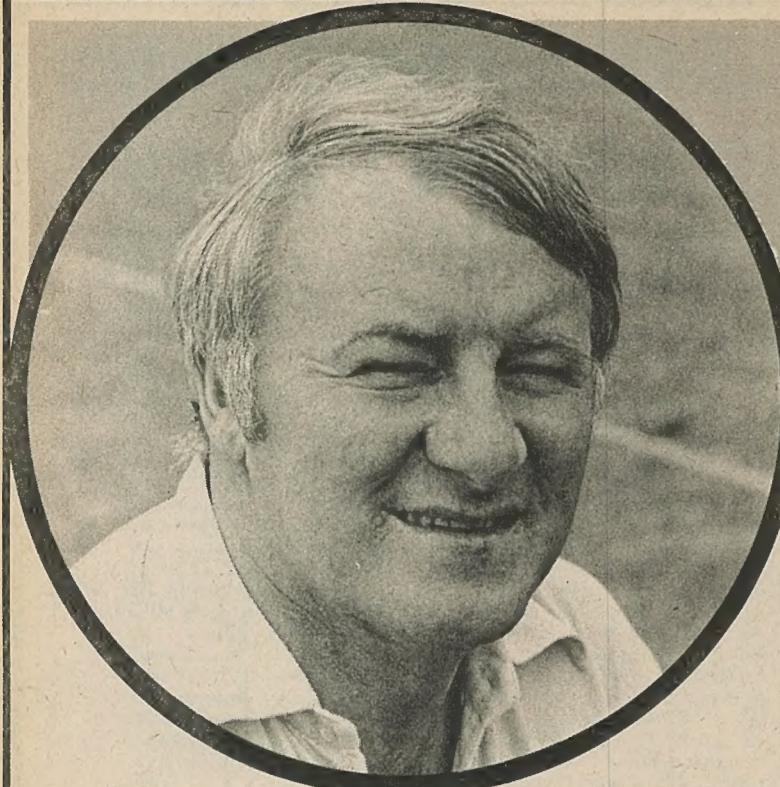
"The turf is soft and after the high school soccer tournament and rugby games (the last game was played January 15), it will be torn up and rough," Nakano said. "Still, the one month before the game should give us time to mend it and get it in top condition."

When asked if the English players would be served Western or Japanese food, Nakano laughed.

"We do not want them to get sick before the game so we will serve them what they are used to. Of course, we would be delighted if a player wanted to try sushi (raw fish) or some other Japanese food. If that is the case, I will even prepare it myself."

HANNES J. MAIER Jnr., TOKYO.





Docherty Blast

TOMMY Docherty may have turned his back on English soccer for good.

Before leaving for Australia to join Sydney Olympic, he said: "I had offers from a couple of League clubs but turned them down.

"For the first time in my life, I found myself completely fed up with British football. And I don't know whether I'll ever get my enthusiasm back.

"I didn't even bother to go to many games after Q.P.R. sacked me. Some weekends I went to watch rugby and found that pretty interesting.

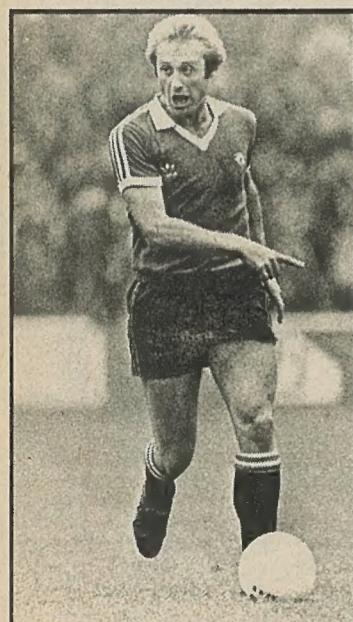
"It worried me that I didn't miss the game as I thought I would. But I suppose it's not surprising when

you consider the football being played.

"Liverpool, West Ham and Luton are teams who play attractive, entertaining stuff. But I wouldn't cross the road to see some of the others.

"Managers seem frightened to let their teams go out and play football. I don't know who's more frightened — the managers or the players."

Docherty says he is leaving



Steve Coppell (above) and Jimmy Greenhoff (left) were The Doc's "best buys" when he managed Manchester United.

THE DOC'S CAREER

Started at Celtic. Joined Preston North End in 1949 and gained a Second Division Championship medal in 1951. Signed for Arsenal in 1958, finally retiring in 1962. Gained 25 full caps for Scotland. Appointed manager of Chelsea in 1962. Took over at Rotherham in 1967. Manager of QPR for 28 days in 1968, then took over at Aston Villa. Left to become manager of Porto FC in Portugal, then took charge of the Scottish national side in 1972, leading them towards the 1974 World Cup Finals but having already relinquished the job to become Manchester United boss in 1972. Moved on to Derby in 1977 after helping United to the Second Division title in 1975 and the F.A. Cup in 1976 and 1977. Took over at Q.P.R. in May, 1979, left Loftus Road at the end of last year.



English football in a bad way and says: "I only hope things are showing an improvement when I get back."

He has to return to England later in the year for his perjury case to be heard. Whether he'll then stay on to seek another League job, he doesn't know.

"I may find that I won't want to come back. Or that I can't afford to. Sydney Olympic are only about the standard of Altrincham but they're paying me twice as much as Manchester United did the year we won the Cup. It's crazy isn't it?"

Docherty has always been one of the game's most flamboyant bosses and he's often bought and sold more in a week than a market trader.

'Wildly'

"I like wheeler dealing but I always balanced the books for clubs and I always left them in credit. I didn't spend wildly."

"I was never stupid enough to spend a million pounds on a player and I never would be."

"Anyway, I don't think there is a British player worth that money. The only one I can think of in the whole world is Maradona."

"If a chairman gave me a million pounds and I had to spend it, I would buy three or four players with it. I might even be able to buy a whole team."

"There'll be no millions for The Doc to splash about in Australia. I don't think there'll be much to

Liverpool and West Ham contest the Charity Shield at Wembley in August last year. "For attractive football and entertainment — these teams are the best," says Tommy Docherty.

spend so I'll have a quiet time in the transfer market.

"I've no idea what I'll want. I have no idea of the playing strengths. I'll soon find out."

The Doc must have bought and sold half the players in the League during his career here. One of those he remembers most fondly is England centre-half Dave Watson.

"When I was at Rotherham, I signed him for a thousand pounds. That must rank as one of the all time bargains."

"At Manchester United, my best buys were probably Steve Coppell and Jimmy Greenhoff. Jimmy was 30 when I paid Stoke £100,000 for him."

"A lot of people thought he was over the hill. But he did a marvellous job for me and Dave Sexton, who took over the manager's chair at Old Trafford."

Docherty doesn't know what to expect in Australia, but they're expecting great things from him. As the biggest name ever to hit their football, he's going to be very much in the spotlight this summer.

Says The Doc: "I just hope I'm as popular by the end of the season. The club got promoted last year so I've something to live up to. It's certainly going to be a challenge."



Ray Clemence

TALKING SOCCER

THREE'S a mental image — of me walking out with the Liverpool team for the 1981 League Cup Final — which I have to continually keep wiping out.

After our 1-0 win over Manchester City in the first-leg of the Semi-Finals, it's tempting to regard the second-leg at Anfield — where we've been unbeaten for over 80 games — as a formality and that we've already won a place in the Final.

Right now, we at Liverpool must draw on every ounce of our professionalism to guard against complacency in the light of going into the second-leg with the bonus of an away goal advantage and playing at Anfield in front of our own fanatical fans.

Everything is on our side, yet

'We must guard against complacency'

there's always the possibility of the unthinkable happening — losing by a two-goal margin.

Under manager John Bond, successor to Malcolm Allison, City now rank as one of the most improved sides in the First Division, and will come to Anfield in a win-or-bust mood.

Instead of going into the second-leg one goal down, they might well have come with a goal in the bank if the one they scored in the first-leg at Maine Road had been allowed.

Headed by Kevin Reeves in the third minute, I thought at the time it was a perfectly good one — until I saw the recording on TV.

I remember thinking as I lay on the ground looking at the ball in the back of the net: "Here we go again." I was still haunted by the memory of conceding two penalties, at the City Ground and Anfield, in last season's Semi-Finals when we were knocked out by Nottingham Forest.

But the cameras revealed Kevin had "assisted" himself to get above Alan Kennedy and head the ball home.

Mind you, they also showed I had been at fault in advancing for Tommy Caton's cross when I had no chance of catching the ball.

Referees come in for a lot of criticism, and this one certainly



Kevin Reeves heads past Ray in the League Cup Semi-Final first-leg, but his effort was disallowed for a foul on Alan Kennedy.

took a lot of stick, but his decision to disallow the goal was vindicated by the cameras.

If that "goal" had stood, the outcome could have been very different, bearing in mind City had put us under pressure so much in the first-half we found it impossible to get into our usual rhythm.

At half-time our manager, Bob Paisley, gave us a real roasting for allowing City to dictate the play, and in the second-half we responded by making sure we had more possession of the ball.

The younger City players, inexperienced at pacing themselves, became tired and frustrated and so presented us with several goal-chances.

But it wasn't until a few minutes from the end we succeeded in scoring — and again the circumstances

were disputed and only settled convincingly by TV.

The referee ruled that Paul Power, in tackling Sammy Lee on the right-side of the field, had raised his foot illegally, and awarded us a free-kick.

It was following this the City defence committed a cardinal error that deserved to be punished — and was!

As the free-kick was floated into their penalty-area, two defenders followed Kenny Dalglish across the face of the goal leaving Ray Kennedy free to move in unmarked and calmly side-foot the ball into the net.

It proved a killer blow to City, demoralising them. They left many spaces which we should have exploited to add to our score. Sammy Lee is still kicking himself for chipping the ball wide after being put clear through with only keeper Joe Corrigan to beat.

Obviously we were delighted to come away winning. Before the

game we'd have settled for a draw, with the prospect of playing the second-leg at Anfield.

However, we're mindful of the fact that one day our record unbeaten home run will be ended — and possibly by a team regarded as least likely. Last season mighty Nottingham Forest had their long spell of home games without losing halted by bottom of the table Brighton.

But don't get the impression we'll be content to defend that one-goal lead. That would be inviting trouble. City are not now a side to be underestimated.

No, we'll be out to build on that score. Firstly to entertain our fans, who demand attacking football, and secondly to give warning to the other Finalist that at last the hoodoo on Liverpool winning the only domestic trophy that has eluded them is destined to be lifted.

I still fancy West Ham to be the

'TV proved the ref right to disallow City's goal'

other Semi-Finalists to go through to Wembley, even though they are a Second Division side opposed by Coventry City from the First.

West Ham have the advantage of being experienced Cup-fighters, and since being robbed of the chance of holding the F.A. trophy for another year by losing to Wrexham in a Third Round replay, will have doubled their resolve to notch up their first win in this competition.

Priority

Much as we at Liverpool want to bring the League Cup home for the first time ever, our domestic priority is to win the Championship for the third season in a row — something that hasn't been done by any club since the Second World War.

On the Saturday before the League Cup tie we go to The Hawthorns to play West Bromwich Albion, at present lying fourth, immediately behind us, in the League table.

In our first meeting in the League, in September, at Anfield, we took full advantage of the fact they were depleted through injuries and hit them 4-0.

Since then they have recaptured the dazzling form of two seasons ago to establish themselves as serious title contenders.

The Championship race is so tight we cannot allow them to emulate Aston Villa, their neighbours who beat us 2-0 at Villa Park. We'll be going for the away win.

INGRAM COMES GOOD

LUTON'S silky-skilled striker Godfrey Ingram could have become a Bundesliga regular instead of struggling for recognition in England if Helmut Schoen had had his way.

The former West German World Cup-winning manager was so impressed with the ex-England schoolboy international when he saw him score two goals against the German schoolboys in 1975 that he offered him a chance at Schalke 04.

But Ingram stayed at home, in Luton, and this season has at last burst on to the first team scene as The Hatters climbed up the table.

It has not all been easy for Ingram though. Now

21, he has battled hard to win a first team place at Luton and was only recently taken off the transfer list.

Manager David Pleat said: "He has some very special talents. Pace, control, ferocious finishing and that balance black players have."

Ingram has played a summer for the glamorous Cosmos in New York, spent a week on trial at Aberdeen, and turned down Northampton after two months loan.

Now, at last, he is emerging from the shadows of his schoolboy stardom and forging a dazzling partnership with Brian Stein in the Luton attack.



HIBERNIAN recently signed former Celtic full-back Alan Sneddon for a nominal fee. He went straight into the Hibs side for an away match at Raith Rovers but did not make a happy debut, being booked after 35 minutes then giving away a second-half penalty which enabled Raith to score their second goal in a 2-0 victory.

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CHANGES of position are common in soccer and tend to make some believe that a player is not necessarily the best judge of his right position.

One of the more successful switches has been that of Cambridge United full-back Jamie Murray, who came to the club as a winger on the recommendation of Floyd Streete, United's midfield man.

Said fellow Scot and United manager John Doherty of the 22-year-old defender, "We're very pleased with the way Jamie has come on this season. He is a good tackler and likes to play with the ball coming at him."

Murray still retains his attacking flair and this gives United more width, because winger Derek Christie can switch flanks and operate on the right.

Stoke 'strong man' quits

DENIS Smith, Stoke City's tough-tackling centre-half, has been forced to quit the game on medical advice.

Smith, who played more than 400 games for the Potters and helped them win the Football League Cup in 1972, was renowned for his courage and professionalism. But the repeated injuries he suffered in the process have taken their toll and now he plans to join City's coaching staff.



NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



Cec Podd tribute

WHILE the rest of the country has been delighting in the skills of black players like Garth Crooks and Justin Fashanu, Cec Podd has quietly clocked up over 350 games in ten years service with his only club, Bradford City.

On March 30th his loyal service will be rewarded with a testimonial match at Valley Parade, the first ever for a black footballer in this country.

It promises to be a memorable night, with City facing a specially invited all-black team including Vince Hilaire (Palace), Terry Connor (Leeds), the Albion trio of Cyrille Regis, Brendon Batson and Remi Moses and Port Vale's exciting duo, the Chamberlain brothers. Bob Hazell (Q.P.R.), George Berry (Wolves) and Orient's Nigerian international winger John Chiedozie are also hoping to appear.

COWDENBEATH have appointed former Hearts and Dundee United player Tommy Traynor as their new coach.

Traynor replaces Jimmy Thomson who left to take up a similar post with Dunfermline.

Traynor retired from playing in November, 1977 and coached junior club Dunipace for two years. His name was also recently connected with the Celtic reserve team coach job after former Cowdenbeath boss Frank Connor left Parkhead to manage Berwick.



Players get dirty job orders

BARNESLEY manager Norman Hunter has come up with a highly unusual way of engendering "family spirit" among his promotion-chasing staff.

The former Leeds and England star has ordered his senior professionals to do all the menial tasks around Oakwell which at other clubs are always carried out by apprentices.

They lay out kit, clean the dressing room and shower, help tend the pitch, clean the terracing — even sometimes make the tea for the youngsters.

There is a rota system of tasks to be done, so all the players know when it is their turn for the chores.

Says leading scorer Ronnie Glavin: "Some of the lads were not too keen on the plan at first, but it is amazing how it has worked out. We have definitely got to know each other a lot better now and I, like the rest of the squad, have quite enjoyed the experience."

And judging by Barnsley's form this season, the idea has paid rich dividends on the field as well.

HODGSON'S GREAT FUTURE

DAVID HODGSON of Middlesbrough was named Robinson's Barley Water 'Young Player of the Month' by a panel including Bill Shankly, Jackie Milburn, Bobby Collins, Stan Cullis, Bill Nicholson, Mike England and England manager, Ron Greenwood.

Hodgson will receive an inscribed silver salver and a cheque for £250 to his nominated charity.

Ron Greenwood said: "Hodgson is a down-to-earth, old-fashioned type of player, industrious and unselfish with good vision. He looks to revel in playing — he's got a great future."

Jackie Milburn said: "Quite soon I can see David and Trevor Francis leading the England attack — he's so fast and powerful, it's unbelievable."

The area selections were: North West, Steve McMahon (Everton); Yorkshire, Joe Joyce (Barnsley); Midlands, Martyn Bennett (West Bromwich Albion); London & South, Kenny Jacklett (Watford); and Wales & West, Jeremy Charles (Swansea City).

STOP! THIEF!

THERE were only four spectators at a recent reserve match between Queen's Park and Celtic at Lesser Hampden — and one of them tried to steal the gloves Celtic keeper Peter Latchford left at the back of his net. Peter chased him away.

LUCILLE'S EVER-PRESENT RECORD

WHEN Lucille Bartlett, 34-year-old supporter of AFC Bournemouth, made the trip to Crewe to see her favourites, she clocked up a remarkable record.

Loyal Lucille completed her tenth year without missing a single League match — home or away.

During that period The Cherries have competed in the Third and Fourth Divisions and, like her team, this super-fan has experienced the ups and downs of the game.

But in her marathon journeys, from Hartlepool to Halifax, from Darlington to Doncaster, and other far-flung venues, her devotion has never wavered.

With a group of friends she travels by car or mini-bus when there are not enough fans to warrant a coach. It often means 24-hour round trips, setting out in the early hours, but Lucille says: "I love it. It's my one hobby, and luckily I can afford the time and the money involved."

NORWICH manager Ken Brown dismisses the Championship chances of East Anglian neighbours Ipswich, and Midlanders Aston Villa. Brown backs Champions Liverpool to retain their title, saying: "I'm convinced it will be their title at the end of the season.

"Liverpool are the most thorough team, and I don't think they are in decline as some people suggest. Ipswich have done well but I don't think they can compare with Liverpool's solidity and consistency.

"That's Liverpool's biggest secret — they are so consistent it's unbelievable. At present Ipswich are the most attractive side but I don't see them winning it. And as for Villa, you can see little chinks in their armour — they are just not as thorough as the Champions."

Norwich ought to know all about the Championship contenders for they've been beaten by all the top three sides on their own ground. Brown says: "Liverpool at home is difficult enough, but away they're a fearful proposition. I don't feel as frightened of Ipswich or Villa as I would do of Liverpool at Anfield. You've always got a chance against the other two. We held Ipswich for almost 45 minutes at their place until a stupid mistake on our part put them on top.

"And we had Villa on the rocks for an hour at Carrow Road before they crawled off the floor and punished us for some more errors.

"But I back Liverpool because they are a great outfit. Despite all the players they've had out this season, they're still there in contention. The others wouldn't be so close to the top if they'd had Liverpool's problems."

STAR BABES



WHO said that footballers are a bunch of hard men? Some of them are as soft as butter, especially when it comes to handling bouncing babies. Introducing Emma Lydia Walford, daughter of Arsenal's star defender Steve (above, right); Dale Kennedy, son of Liverpool's Ray (left), who weighed in at 8lb 6oz; and Thomas Burridge, seen disturbing the sleep of Queens Park Rangers' goalkeeper John (right).



balls, only one particular League approved coloured ball and plain white balls.

John Boulter, responsible for promoting Adidas in France, estimates that United Kingdom sales would be boosted by more than £750,000 if the League approved their football. "Going to Brussels is a last resort," he says.

Sixty other countries use the ball. World wide sales are worth more than £300,000. The "Tango" retails at £37.50.

Adidas says that "many" First Division managers have expressed a desire to use the ball, including Jim Smith (Birmingham), Gordon Lee (Everton) and Brian Clough (Nottingham Forest).

Briefly...

• The attendance for the Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea match was the lowest gate for this match at Loftus Road . . . by three! The lowest previous gate was 22,876.

• Halifax Town midfield player Paul Hendrie has developed a nasty skin allergy caused by the washing detergent used in laundering the team's kit. It is not a laughing matter for Paul, either. After a recent game, he found he had lost a layer of skin off the top of both legs and was sidelined for a week.

FALKIRK manager John Hagart acted as a chauffeur to his young centre-forward Willie Herd. The ex-East Fife striker, signed for £25,000, damaged ankle ligaments. He was asked to attend Falkirk Royal Infirmary for daily treatment. Hagart, like Herd, lives in Edinburgh and was able to oblige.

• Middlesbrough showed their most lethal finishing of the season in the F.A. Cup slaughter of Swansea. But the 5-0 scoreline was not a true reflection of the balance of play.

Swansea goalkeeper Dave Stewart was not often in action — apart from the times he picked the ball out of the net!

Middlesbrough goalkeeper Jim Platt sympathised with the Scot. "I know how he felt," said the Northern Ireland international. "I played against Manchester City at Maine Road in the League Cup Semi-Final five years ago and had a quiet game. Yet City beat us 4-0."

• Lancashire soccer plays a big part in the life of 21-year-old midfielder Jimmy Hall.

He used to love watching Liverpool — and especially England midfielder Terry McDermott. He made his League debut with Blackpool two seasons ago and is now with Blackburn.

Bootle-born Hall is a former Merseyside schools player.

• Stirling Albion winger Matt McPhee, who has been 13 years with the club, recently played his 500th competitive game for the Annfield side. Not surprisingly, he is to receive a testimonial for his services

which include scoring more than 100 goals.

• Mansfield have unearthed two kids to watch for the future . . . 20-year-old David Caldwell and 19-year-old Les McJannett.

Both players came from Scottish junior football. Caldwell from Inverness Caledonian and McJannett from Ayr Boys Club.

Manager Mick Jones says: "We have good connections North of the border. These two lads obviously have a big future."

"They have already played a big part in our challenge for promotion to the Third Division."

charts.

Since then he has overtaken his strike partner Garth Crooks to become the club's top scorer — thanks to wearing a pair of odd socks!

Says Steve: "Perhaps I am superstitious, but so are most strikers. I've scored eight goals this season by wearing odd socks and all of them came from the foot with the lucky stocking on."

Which foot? Well, Steve leaves that one for defenders to sort out. But usually he manages to catch them on the wrong foot!

BRIGHTON boss Alan Mullery beat several London clubs to the punch when he recently snapped up goalkeeper Perry Digweed from Fulham to solve a crisis of confidence in defence.

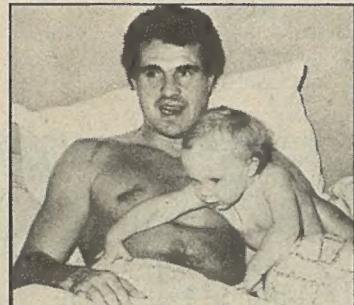
That should not surprise supporters of the South Coast club, for Mullery has done quite a bit of business with Fulham since his playing days at Craven Cottage.

But his task in snatching Digweed was made easier by the fact that there was still an outstanding debt due to Brighton from the sale of former Fulham favourite striker Teddy Maybank.

Says Mullery: "Perry is a young goalkeeper with a lot of talent and we have kept an eye on his progress for some time. He is a real bargain at £150,000 and definitely a young player with a big future."



THE magic of Peter Shilton has drawn another much sought-after young player to Nottingham Forest, Stirling goalkeeper Ronnie Sinclair, who has played for Scotland at various age levels, was offered the chance of joining several top English and Scottish clubs. But he has now opted for Forest — to have the opportunity of studying under his idol.



GARRY Birtles is indebted to Brian Clough's coaching during their time together at Nottingham Forest.

Birtles praises Clough for helping him score his first goal for Manchester United at Brighton that clinched a Third Round F.A. Cup tie.

"Clough always told me to get to the near post for crosses and that's just what I did and thankfully I scored. So perhaps I owe that goal to Brian."

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*1978 Ipswich 1, Arsenal 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1977 Man. Utd. 2, Liv'pool 1 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1976 S'hampton 1, Man. Utd. 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0 100ft

*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0 100ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2 100ft

1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1 100ft

1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0 100ft

1968 WBA 1, Everton 0 200ft

1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1 200ft

1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2 300ft

1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1 200ft

1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2 200ft

1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1 200ft

*2 Spurs 3, Burnley 1 100ft

*1961 Spurs, Leicester 100ft
Also col sound 100ft

1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0 100ft

1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1 100ft

1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0 100ft

1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1 100ft

1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3 100ft

1954 to 1956 also available 100ft

EUROPEAN CUP

*1978 Liverpool 1, Bruges 0 200ft/400ft
Also 400ft col sound

*1977 L'pool 3 Borussia MGB 1 200ft/300ft
Also 200ft/300ft col sound

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1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final) ... 200ft	1967 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 1 200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1 200ft	1966 Man. Utd. 2, Benfica 1 200ft
1966 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3 200ft/400ft	1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1 200ft
1963 Milan 2, West Germany 2 200ft/400ft	1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3 200ft/400ft
1962 Brazil 3, Uruguay 1 200ft/400ft	1958 Argentina 3, Holland 1 200ft/400ft
1962 Argentina 3, Holland 2 200ft/400ft	Also col sound 400ft
1961 Brazil 3, Argentina 1 200ft/400ft	1961 Argentina 3, Holland 2 200ft/400ft
1960 Argentina 3, Holland 1 200ft/400ft	Also col sound 400ft
1958 Argentina 3, Holland 1 200ft/400ft	1958 Argentina 3, Holland 1 200ft/400ft
1957 Brazil 3, Argentina 1 200ft/400ft	Also col sound 400ft
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*1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1 100ft

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Also col sound 400ft

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'I want to join the famous four'



Tartan Talk
DANNY McGRAIN

WITH more than a little help from Jock Stein, I can join the elite on February 25 with Scotland's vital World Cup game against Israel in Tel Aviv.

If the boss selects me it will be my 50th cap for my country, and so I will join the famous four which already includes the legendary names of Kenny Dalglish, Denis Law, Billy Bremner and George Young.

All of these famous players have turned out for Scotland more than 50 times, with Kenny streets ahead on 77 caps and bags more to come.

For the record Denis Law won 55, Billy Bremner 54 and big George Young 53 . . . and the Rangers captain did it in the days when there weren't so many international matches about.

But in my case I have packed all that international football into eight years.

I won my first cap against Wales at Wrexham in 1973 and played a further 39 times, including the unforgettable experience of the 1974 World Cup Finals, before the nightmare injury which robbed me of a year of my career.

Still, I am not denying that inter-

Denis Law wins his last Scotland cap, against Zaire in the 1974 World Cup.

national football has been good to me. I have seen a lot and experienced things I will never forget.

Since I made my comeback, every Scotland game has been a bonus for me . . . and will continue to be.

There are many fine young players after my place in Jock Stein's team . . . George Burley, Ally Dawson and Ray Stewart for example.

Indeed, I have already played alongside a couple of them in the full Scotland team, and when someone told me the breakdown of my Scotland partners in 49 internationals just the other day I found it pretty interesting.

I played 19 times with Sandy Jardine, 15 with Willie Donachie, and had games with Alex Forsyth, Stewart Houston, Iain Munro, Ally George and Frankie Gray.

Of that talented bunch I will always have the fondest memories of Sandy Jardine, probably because he and I are of the same age group and because we played together throughout the World Cup.

Indeed, I suppose in those days,

the start of the Scotland team tripped off the tongue . . . "Harvey, Jardine, McGrain . . ."

Great days those, but almost as happy for me was back in 1979 when I made my comeback after that ankle injury put the brakes on my career and managed to get back into the Scotland side — against Belgium at Hampden.

Things have changed now, of course, and that includes my own style.

Intimidating

People have accused me of being harder, of being intimidating.

Well that may be, but I think every player changes in style as the years go on. I am not the same player as I was five years ago, but then I will probably change again over the next few years.

The introduction of the Premier Division in Scotland in 1975 left players with less room to play. Things are fiercer and it is definitely harder to play now than it was then.

Or is it just because I am getting old?

Back to this World Cup game. It is an absolutely vital afternoon for

Scotland in the sunshine of Tel Aviv.

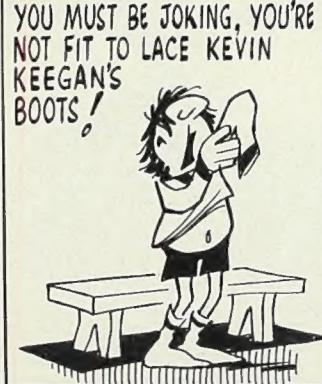
Honesty will tell you that if we are to have any chance of qualifying for the Finals in Spain in 1982, far less win the world's greatest football tournament, then we must be able to beat the likes of Israel.

I know that Avi Cohen will have been able to tell his boss all about the talents of Liverpool team-mate Kenny Dalglish, but then there are 21 teams in the English First Division who think they know all about him too. Every week they find out they don't!

See you in two weeks . . .

**TARTAN TALK
FROM RANGERS'
DEREK JOHNSTONE
NEXT WEEK**

NOBBY



Uruguay strike gold

BY winning the *Copa de Oro — Gold Cup* — in Montevideo, Uruguay kept up the tradition of hosts being victorious. Their exciting young team proved just too good for Brazil — watch out for Uruguay to make an impact in the 1982 World Cup Finals.

Goalkeeper and captain Rodolfo Rodriguez is carried shoulder-high after his country's 2-1 triumph.



Waldemar Victorino stoops to score Uruguay's winner as the Brazilian defence hesitates.



The player many critics hailed as the star of the tournament... Uruguay's midfield general Ruben Paz.



Uruguay's Ramos and Edevaldo of Brazil chase a loose ball.

Champions Uruguay, back row (from left): Rodriguez, Olivera, Krasouski, Martinez, Diogo, De Leon. Front row: Ramos, De Le Pena, Victorino, Paz, Morales.



'I'M LAZY'

C LIVE Allen cost £1 million — twice — and Paul Goddard a cool £800,000. But coming up fast on the rails for the title of Britain's most exciting young striker is Aston Villa's Gary Shaw.

The 19-year-old blond-haired Birmingham lad started the season in great style — and kept up his scoring rate.

Having burst on the scene early last season, Shaw's flame eventually died towards the end of term. But now he's back far stronger and determined to keep scoring right through Villa's Championship campaign.

He says: "Although I was disappointed that the goals dried up last season I wasn't worried. Manager Ron Saunders played me more than he wanted to because of injuries, and lacking a little strength I began to tire."

"But I've filled out now and I feel fitter and stronger. At the beginning of the season I set myself a

Confesses
Villa
goal-ace

GARY SHAW



target of 20 goals. By the end of 1980 I already had 16, so I think I can manage it. I was also looking to get into England's Under-21 side, and I have already achieved that particular aim."

Shaw has one other goal in life this season — to work harder. For one so young, Shaw is encouragingly self-critical, and explains: "I tend to be a little lazy, and these days no striker can afford to stand around."

"He has to keep on the move constantly, showing himself for diagonal balls and be ready for a quick dash into the box. I didn't do enough of that last season, but now I'm concentrating on working harder."

"It's a question of staying aware, and keeping the concentration going. I'm beginning to feel the benefits."

Shaw's game has also improved since Peter Withe, Villa's £500,000 signing from Newcastle, joined the club. The big striker is often criticised by fans — though so far not Villa's — but is highly rated in players' circles.

And Shaw says: "You can learn so much from Peter just by watching him. He's always available — which makes the job so much easier for the midfield men because he's always there to be hit and therefore ease the pressure on them."

"And he has taken an enormous

amount of pressure off me because of his size. I can 'float' around him and pick up his flicks — he has brilliant touch for a man of his size."

"Of course we are a different type of player, but I feel he has taught me a lot this season and helped me near that 20-goal target. I also think he could be the extra spark we needed to get us among the honours."

"The Championship is still within our grasp, and if we can pull off a few more performances like our recent 2-0 defeat of Liverpool I feel confident we can bring the glory back to Villa Park."

Anybody who has seen young Gary in action wouldn't argue.



Jackson's kept his promise

IN 1975 veteran goalkeepers Kevin Keelan and John Jackson entered into a friendly bet as to which of them would continue playing in the Football League the longest.

Keelan's last game for Norwich was a year ago, but Jackson, true to his promise, is still going strong as the last line of defence for Third Division Millwall.

"I reckon I have at least another two years left in me," commented 39-year-old Jackson. "And when the time finally comes for me to call it a day, I would like to stay in the game as a manager."

He has already gone part of the way towards realising that ambition by completing the Senior Coaching, Management and PFA Business Studies courses, and is now actively involved in coaching the youngsters at The Den.

Promote

Before George Petchey's departure as Millwall manager, there were plans to promote Jackson to player-coach, but now Peter Anderson has taken over, the position of the coach has been shelved.

With relegation to the Fourth Division a possibility before Anderson's appointment, Jackson has been encouraged by recent form.

"Our problem before was that we were playing with anything up to eight players in the side under the age of 20. It's easy to cover for the inexperience of a couple of promising teenagers, but not virtually a whole team.

"We weren't helped by the fact that our four experienced men — Mel Blyth, Barry Kitchener, Nicky Chatterton and myself — have all

been out at some stage through injury.

"But now we are in a position where we can afford to let some of the youngsters drop back into the reserves for a couple of weeks to absorb everything they have learnt."

Although Millwall have been in the wrong half of the table for most of the season, they have not been deserted by a fanatical band of supporters.

"What's given us bad publicity in the past are the fringe element who don't seem to realise that they're destroying the club they're supposed to be supporting. Because of them, the average man in the street won't let his kids come along, which means we have lost a future generation of supporters," Jackson said.

Living in Brighton — an 80 minute journey from The Den — means that Jackson's three daughters, aged 16, 13 and 11, rarely have the opportunity of watching their father in action. But although all are interested, Jackson quickly qualifies the importance of living so far away.

"Whenever you go out everyone wants to talk to you about the game. But because I live so far away from the club, nobody really says anything to me, which suits me fine."

Record-breaking keeper had little to do!

SOUTHEND set a new record this season when Dave Smith's Fourth Division pace-setters went an astonishing 859 minutes — or nine and a half games — without conceding a goal on their Roots Hall ground.

Yet the man who had to take much of the credit, goalkeeper Mervyn Cawston (pictured), says simply: "You can't thank me for the record — I didn't have much to do! The players in front of me who kept all the opposing strikers so far away from goal did most of the work. They're the ones who should get the credit."

Listen to Cawston and you might just write off his part in Southend's piece of club history. But manager Dave Smith is under no illusions about the part played by his 28-year-old 'keeper.

Smith says: "Mervyn is probably playing better now than at any other stage of his career. He's given us confidence and assurance throughout our defence and, of course, he's had a great deal to do with the record. I've been delighted with his form."

That tribute should set the record straight. Cawston, who came back to Southend after four seasons in American soccer with Chicago Sting, has been in top form this season and Southend conceded just 19 goals in their first 29 matches.

Successful

After those first 29 games, Southend were also the most successful side in England, points-wise, as they led the Fourth Division table. So what was the secret? "We shouldn't have been relegated in the first place," says Cawston. "Last season, we were playing so well in many games yet losing 1-0 or by the odd goal in three. We never dreamt we'd be relegated. When it happened, everyone was stunned because we honestly thought the squad we had was good enough to take us nearer the Second Division than the Fourth.

"It was all very depressing when we realised we were down but we rolled our sleeves up during the summer and got the right attitude into the club. The fact is, this squad is much better than Fourth Division standard, so with the good start we've made this season we shall want kicking if we don't go straight back up."

Cawston believes Southend's defence has played so well this season that he's had a relatively quiet time. "Even though we've had to contend with a couple of defenders being out injured, others have come in and done just as well. They must have done — look at our record."

"We've also spent most of our home games pushing forward in attack, so that's taken the pressure off me and the defence. Not many sides have put us under much pressure at our place this season.

"But I'm not taking all the credit. I wouldn't take all the blame if we lost 5-0, so I'm not taking all the accolades just because we haven't let in any goals. The previous club record was six games without conceding a goal so one thing is for sure — we're setting a stiff target for a future side to beat."

Cool, commanding goalkeeping from Cawston has definitely helped Southend this season. And it will be a major surprise if the former Norwich goalkeeper who went to America isn't playing Third Division football next season — with Southend.

In 15 League games at Roots Hall this season, Southend have taken a maximum 30 points. Only three goals had been conceded in that run, and although Cawston is reluctant to accept the accolades, the figures speak for themselves.



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'I'd welcome Sunday soccer'



NEXT Monday (February 9th) I understand the Football League meet to discuss new proposals to help give the game a much needed boost.

Great! It's about time our authorities realised we needed an injection of some new ideas and a streamlining of others.

Now I'm no soccer philosopher. I can hardly preach about the game when I've only played a handful of First Division matches. But I am in love with football and care very deeply about the future.

This week I thought it might be an idea to run through some of the suggestions and give you my views.

Obviously I don't expect my opinions to have any effect on the meeting, or that the management committee will take any notice. They are purely personal.

First, the League are to consider extending the half-time interval from ten to 15 minutes. This is probably to give clubs the opportunity to provide entertainment for the fans.

Well, that's fine. I'm all in favour of putting on a show for the supporters, but before the game.

Half-time is for the players. It's a crucial period, especially for the losing side.

The break relieves the pressure the team is under and gives the manager an opportunity of putting things right.

Ten minutes is long enough. Players are used to the present system. Extra-time might allow them to relax too much.

Players as a rule don't like

change. Besides, you can cram an awful lot into ten minutes.

There's usually a cup of tea waiting for us in the dressing room. While we are sitting down the physio asks if anyone has a knock or injury. If they have, he rushes them into the treatment room for rapid repairs.

The manager is talking all the time. Giving us stick, telling us where we are going wrong if the team is losing. Spotting the men giving us problems. Greeting us up, asking for more effort if we are winning.

I'm not in favour of the next suggestion, either. Leicester City would like to see a six point system introduced, although the management committee are pressing for three for a win.

Encourage

There's nothing wrong with two points for a win, one for a draw. Extra points might encourage teams to open up, but I'm not so sure.

As it stands at the moment there's not usually much difference in the number of points separating the teams at the top of a Division and those in the relegation zone. This stimulates interest until the end of the season.

Awarding three points for a win might simply mean the likes of Liverpool, Ipswich and Villa establishing an even wider gap at the top.

Before the League do decide to adopt the new proposal, why not try it in the reserve Leagues so the system can be studied more closely?

MY SOCCER WORLD
Clive Allen

It would be impractical for North London rivals Spurs and Arsenal to share a ground.

est because of the recent situation at Crystal Palace. Take-over bids are okay only if they are in the best interests of the two clubs and the game.

There's nothing wrong in two clubs getting together and sharing one ground, providing they retain their identities.

Soccer stadiums are expensive to maintain and stand empty and unused most of the time.

Ground sharing works on the Continent, so why not here, especially when two neighbouring clubs are finding it difficult staying alive.

Mind you I can't ever see the likes of Spurs and Arsenal playing on the same ground. Or Liverpool and Everton . . . or Manchester United and City. The rivalry is too intense.

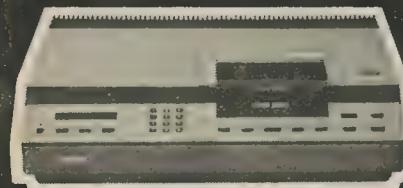
As I write there's nothing to report on my transfer. Several clubs have been reported to have shown an interest but as yet have made no firm bids as far as I know. Anyway I've no idea what new manager Dario Gradi has in mind.

Let's hope for better news next time . . .

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Offer open to UK residents only

FOUR years ago goalkeeper Billy Thomson was playing in the forgotten world of reserve football in front of only a few hundred fans.

Then came a £40,000 transfer from the obscurity of being Alan Rough's understudy at Partick Thistle to St. Mirren and first team football at Love Street. There was no looking back after that.

Highlighting the astonishing progress of Thomson — who won his first full Scottish international cap against Northern Ireland in Belfast last year — was the value slapped on his talent recently by St Mirren manager Rikki McFarlane.

Crystal Palace, with a mountain of headaches surrounding their goalkeeping position, asked McFarlane to name a price for Thomson and were immediately told to start the bidding at a cool £750,000!

That valuation is the highest ever put on a British goalkeeper and easily beats the previous best

punishing training routine with the rest of his St Mirren team-mates. They fire endless shots at him from all angles, and after that barrage has halted he works on cutting out high balls with people such as the burly Jim Bone and Doug Somner challenging him for everything in the air.

His former team-mate Iain Munro, now starring with Stoke after his transfer this season, says: "Billy really works hard. Do you know he used to get annoyed with himself in training when he didn't hold a shot?"

"Players were whacking things in at him from point blank range, and just to get to those shots might have been enough for another goalkeeper. But Billy was trying to catch everything."

It's that sort of attitude and dedication that have rocketed Thomson into the £750,000 class. Yes, he's certainly come a long way in the past four years!

BILLY THOMSON

Britain's most expensive goalkeeper

of the £527,000 West Ham gave to Queens Park Rangers for Phil Parkes.

St. Mirren boss McFarlane says: "The Crystal Palace chief scout telephoned me to say they were interested in buying Billy."

"I told him we did not want to sell him. He is essential to our plans for the future and it would cost a packet to shift him from Love Street."

"My valuation is not unreasonable bearing in mind some of the inflationary fees that have changed hands recently."

"In goalkeeping terms, Billy, who is 22, has years ahead of him and his potential is unlimited."

"I think in time he will be regarded as the best goalkeeper in Britain."

Potential

Malcolm Allison has already admitted that 6ft plus Thomson has the potential to become one of the best in the business, and there is little doubt that he will eventually take over from Alan Rough as the regular Scottish 'keeper.'

Thomson accepts the accolades in a mannerly, sombre fashion and says: "It's nice to read complimentary things about your play, but I accept I am still learning my trade. I've got an awful lot to do."

"Goalkeepers continuously pick up tips. As you get older you get wiser, but the main thing is to keep on working at your game."

Thomson puts himself through a



'I'm not finished yet'

declares PAT JENNINGS

THOUGHTS of retirement do not enter the mind of Pat Jennings. To coin a favourite phrase of John Wayne, the tall, softly-spoken Irishman aims to be around "a whole lot longer."

Big Pat has his sights set on the 1982 World Cup in Spain — despite the fact that he has missed Northern Ireland's last eight internationals because of injury and club commitments.

His New Year resolution was a simple one: To play against Scotland at Hampden Park in March in what will probably be his country's toughest match of their Group Six World Cup qualifying competition.

Arsenal's hectic end-of-term last Spring — they played 70 competitive games last season — was the first cause for Jennings' absence from the international scene.

This season he has missed 13 Arsenal matches through torn ligaments. "I did it in my right foot against Stoke in mid-September," he recalls. "Specialists warned me I would be out for about seven weeks."

The injury meant he was ruled out of Northern Ireland's last two World Cup matches, against Sweden and Portugal.

Jennings' tally of 83 Ireland caps is a record which will be highly difficult to beat. "I am often asked whether I am after a century of caps," he says. "All I am aiming for at the moment is number 84. I take each game as it comes.

"I don't like to look any further than the next game and the next cap. I do want that 84th cap badly



and I will be ready to return against Scotland — if Billy Birmingham needs me. But of course, Jim Platt has given some great displays and will be hard to oust."

Virtually the only recognition not to have come Jennings' way in his long and distinguished career for Watford, Tottenham, Arsenal and Northern Ireland, is to play in the Finals of a World Cup.

He is now 35, but does not adhere to the view that this could be his last opportunity of taking part in football's crowning tournament.

"Naturally I would like to play in the Finals in Spain but I feel I can still keep going until the 1986 competition. I just don't know when I'll retire or what I'll do when I finally call it a day.

'Tremendous'

"Scotland on their day can beat any country in the world. They have so many tremendous players to perm from, both North and South of the border. But two sides from each group qualify for Spain, which must increase our chances.

"It would be nice if both Scotland and ourselves could make it. I'm sure I'm speaking for the rest of the Irish lads when I say that."

Pat Jennings ranks among the all-time greats in the game. Everyone connected with football will be wishing him well on that testing path to Spain.

PAT JENNINGS' PLAYING CAREER

Watford 48 League games.

Tottenham 472 League games.

Arsenal 124 League games (up to January 17)

Honours: F.A. Cup winners' 1967, 1979.

Runners-up 1978, 1980.

League Cup winners' 1971, 1973.

UEFA Cup winners 1972. Runners-up 1974.

European Cup-Winners' Cup runners up 1980.

Footballer of the Year 1973.

PFA Player of the Year 1975.

They said it...

"Sometimes we take our attacking football to the extreme. What we should do is not concede goals on the occasions we don't score any." Spurs' John Lacy.

"Apart from West Ham, I can't see anyone better than us in Division Two." QPR's Andy King.

"I love looking at all the quaint places here and hearing all the different accents. I could not understand a word when we went to Sunderland." Chelsea's Yugoslav keeper Petar Borota.

"When we were in Division Four people asked whether we could survive in Division Three. When we were in Division Three they asked whether we could survive in Division Two. Now they're asking about Division One. I

reckon we're ready for the final push." Cambridge United manager John Docherty.

"We cannot entertain at the moment because we're not good enough." Leeds United manager Allan Clarke.

"If I'd been a betting man I'd have put my money on Liverpool from the start of the season." Forest's Trevor Francis on the Championship.

"If I'm asked where the greatest contribution for soccer came from in 1980 I'd have to say West Germany." Manchester United boss Dave Sexton.

"The hard part of being a striker is to be in the right position to snap up the chances. The easy part is putting the ball in the back of the net." West Ham's David Cross.



"Emlyn Hughes has a new nickname. He's been suspended so many times this season we now call him The Noose." Wolves' John Richards (above).

"We don't make threats at this club. We carry them out." Forest's Peter Taylor.

"I'd heard Southerners were unfriendly. Maybe they're a bit reserved, but once you get to know them they're every bit as friendly and helpful as Northerners." Brighton's Andy Ritchie.

"My job was under threat from the day I accepted it." Sunderland manager Ken Knighton.

"My one regret is not playing in English football. Apart from what England has done for football nobody can compete with the English when it comes to manners. I've heard it said they are too polite, but I don't agree. Being called 'sir' and being asked if your beer is okay is better than being called nothing and having the beer virtually thrown at you." Former Ajax and Holland defender Wim Suurbier.

"Everyone thinks Cardiff are a team they ought to beat. That isn't the case any longer. We're a better side than we're given credit for." Cardiff manager Richie Morgan.



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

- 1** From a throw-in the ball goes into the goal before another player touches it. Should you award (a) a goal-kick, (b) a throw to the opposing side or (c) have the throw retaken?



- 3** A player shouts abuse at a colleague. Should you (a) stop the match and caution the player, (b) speak to the player as the game goes on or (c) take no action?

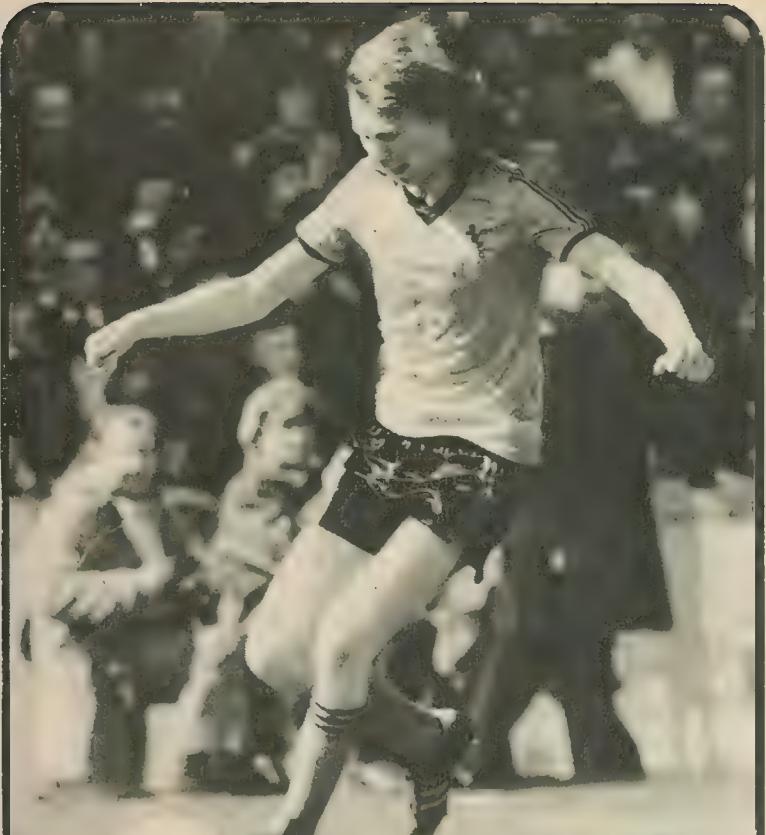


- 5** The ball is played forward by a winger who has beaten the goalkeeper. A team-mate standing in front of two defenders collects the ball and scores. Should you (a) award a goal or (b) offside?



ANSWERS

1. A goal-kick (a). 2. Award a penalty (a). 3. Speak to the player and had a word with Charlie was running for him when I saw him slide and t shows what tension there is on the field. 4. Restart with a drop-ball (b). 5. Award a goal (a).



DYNAMITE DODDS

DUNDEE UNITED manager Jim McLean is a perfectionist, a pessimist and a realist ... although not necessarily in that order.

He is acknowledged as one of the best coaches in Scottish football and he isn't slow to admit a mistake if he has made one.

When he sold Andy Gray to Aston Villa he agrees he made a mistake in trying to replace him with an identical player in his front line. That thinking hindered the progress of young Davie Dodds at Tannadice.

'Retarded'

McLean admits: "Davie is now 22 and I accept I probably retarded his progress for a time. I was looking for another Gray and didn't help his confidence by picking his faults.

"Now what I am trying to do with Davie and his team-mates is praise their good points."

Dodds has emerged from the shadow of £1½ million ace Gray to become a star in his own right and the coaching and methods of McLean allied to his natural enthusiasm and courage have made him one of the most lethal front runners in the Premier Division.

He is leading the line with refreshing vigour and is now famous for his valuable goals just when United need them most. He scored against Celtic at Parkhead in the second-leg of the League Cup Semi-Final and that was the killer goal that put the Tannadice

men through to their second successive Final in this tournament.

And in the Final, against neighbours Dundee, it was Dodds who started the landslide 3-0 victory celebrations by heading in the opening goal after a stalemate period in tricky conditions.

That goal was so typical of the alert, strong running marksman. Paul Sturrock, a vastly matured player this season, went wide on the left dragging the Dundee defence across the park.

Dodds moved into the penalty area, took up position at the far post and was completely unmarked as Sturrock fired over his inch perfect cross. Dodds raced in, bowed majestically and no goalkeeper could have kept that whiplash header out of the net.

Dodds, though, hasn't always been so happy about his football career. At one stage it looked as though he would be leaving Tannadice when he was loaned out to Arbroath for a spell.

Earlier in the season he was placed on the transfer list, but no club persuaded him to leave and now Dodds is happy at that state of affairs.

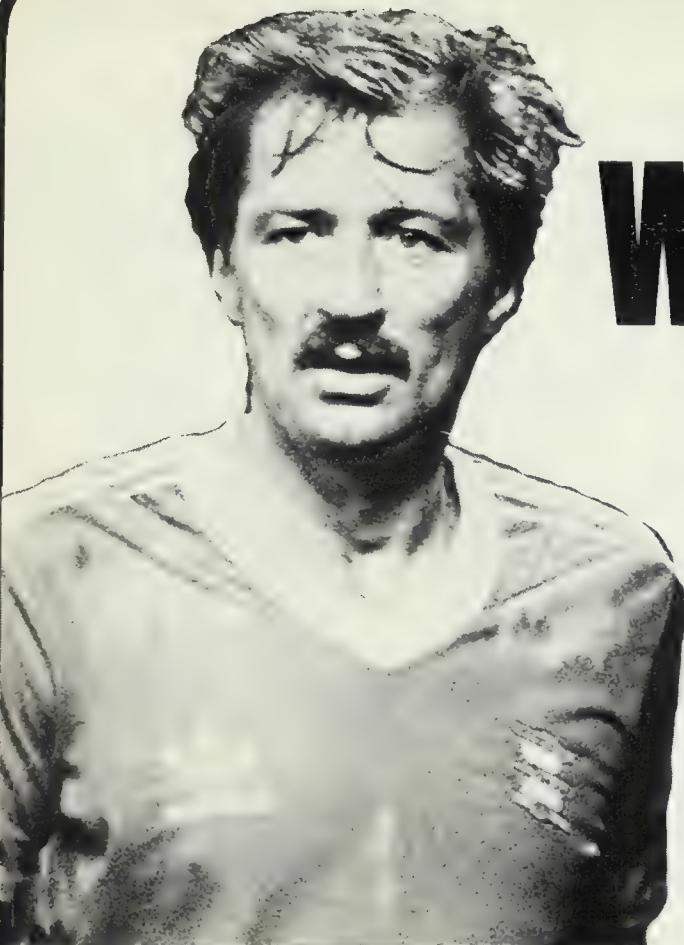
"The big transformation came when I went full-time a couple of years ago," he says. "I'm now back at Tannadice most afternoons working on my ball control and sprinting. The hard work is paying off."

Dynamite Dodds may not be another Andy Gray, but we doubt if anyone at Tannadice is complaining.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

BY BILL DAY

WORTHINGTON BOOSTS BLUES



SEVENTEEN, 19, 13, 11 and 21 are numerals that bring no pleasure to Birmingham City. They represent positions the club held in the First Division before relegation in 1978-79.

Season 1979-80 saw them powering to promotion from the Second Division at the first time of asking but this season they are counting numbers again as they drift aimlessly in mid-table with no hope of the Championship and every chance they could become involved in the relegation battle unless they string some good results together.

Fortunately, they are too good to go down although an F.A. Cup Fourth Round defeat at Coventry City denied them a welcome bonus from the cut and thrust of the First Division.

Yet despite their inconsistency in the League there remains a tremendous optimism at St. Andrews, a feeling of confidence generated by the influence of Birmingham's manager Jim Smith, one of the most charming bosses in the game and a devotee of moves to brighten-up the game for the sake of long suffering supporters.

A tribute to Smith's leadership and the club's prospects of lifting the gloom which sometimes mists over St. Andrews was delivered unexpectedly when Frank Worthington, their cultured former England striker, changed his mind about quitting the club for the dollar-laden pitches of the North American Soccer League.

Few expected Worthington to sign a new 12-month contract, but Smith's persuasive powers and

the club's ambition tilted the scales in favour of Worthington's retention.

Birmingham are building for the future. That is the excuse of many First Division clubs in the doldrums, but a genuine fact of life around St. Andrews.

In almost three years at St. Andrews Jim Smith, known affectionately as the "bald eagle", has given the club stability, investing wisely in the transfer market in preference to spending huge sums on transfers.

Jeff Wealands, their talented goalkeeper, cost a mere £30,000 from Hull City in the summer of 1979. Right-back David Langan

cost £250,000 from Derby County in June, 1980. A Republic of Ireland international, the 23-year-old defender gets better with every outing.

Colin Todd, immaculate in the heart of Birmingham's defence, signed from Everton for £300,000 in September, 1979, a snip by comparison to figures paid for players not worthy of lacing Todd's boots.

August, 1979, saw the arrival of Archie Gemmill, £150,000 worth of midfield talent from Nottingham Forest. Forest fans are still mourning the departure of their Scottish midfield star, and if Gemmill — and Keith Bertschin — has been singled out for abuse from the crowd since Christmas, it is surely only a temporary attack on one of the most wholehearted professionals in the First Division.

Alan Curbishley, vastly improved, cost only £225,000 when he signed from West Ham, for whom he made his debut as a teenager. He spent five years at Upton Park before signing for The Blues in June, 1979, for a bargain fee.

Keith Bertschin, the ex-Ipswich striker cost just £135,000, and Worthington, capped eight times by England, cost only a five-figure sum.

Others have been bought at bargain prices by Jim Smith, arguably the best "shopper" of any man-

ager in the First Division.

Jim Smith, smiling in victory and equally gracious in defeat, says philosophically: "We have to make progress towards our ultimate aim of building a club worthy of a public who want to see the best.

"We have to seek a stable place in Division One and to attempt to win major honours as quickly as possible.

"My ambition is to lead Birmingham City into a situation where other supporters are excited at the prospect of seeing us play. This means we must build a good attractive team and make regular challenges for the various trophies which are at stake."

Mature

Birmingham's nursery of precocious talent is taking time to mature. Phil Hawker has made rapid progress, taking over from Mark Dennis in the number three shirt when the England prospect was sidelined with injury. Dennis has won England youth honours and become a member of the England Under-21 squad.

Steve Lynex is another with exceptional promise. He has been used as the spearhead of Birmingham's attack and also in midfield.

If Birmingham's form has been inconsistent, it is possibly because of their eagerness to play attractive football both home and away, a style sometimes beyond even the Rolls-Royce clubs of the First Division.

HONOURS

Second Division Champions 1892-93, 1920-21, 1947-48, 1954-55;

Runners-up 1893-94, 1900-01, 1902-03, 1971-72.

F.A. Cup Runners-up 1931, 1956.

Football League Cup winners 1963.

European Fairs Cup runners-up 1958-59, 1960-61.

Record last season: Second Division — Third. F.A. Cup — Fifth Round.

League Cup — Third Round.

Keith Bertschin and Archie Gemmill take flying lessons against Manchester United





BACK ROW (left to right): Keith Bertschin, Joe Gallagher, Jeff Wealands, Neil Freeman, Don Givens, Alan Curbishley.
MIDDLE ROW: Norman Bodell (ass't. manager), Tony Towers, Alan Ainscow, Kevan Broadhurst, Terry Lees, Colin Todd, Kevin Dillon, Kevin Walters (physio).
FRONT ROW: Steve Lynex, Tony Evans, Malcolm Page, Jim Smith (manager), Archie Gemmill, Mark Dennis, David Langan.



HAM CITY

STORY OF A STAR STORY OF A STAR STORY OF A STAR STORY OF A STAR

IT only took Paul Mariner a few days to realise he had made the right decision in joining Ipswich Town.

It was a decision that disappointed both West Ham and West Bromwich Albion, the two other clubs chasing his signature after he had started the 1976-77 season with a scoring burst for Plymouth Argyle.

Four days after he completed the forms in the Portman Road board-

room he was wearing the Ipswich number nine shirt against Manchester United in front of more than 50,000 Old Trafford fans.

He recalls starting the move that led to Clive Woods' winning goal and says: "At the end of that game I knew I had joined a club that was going places — and not just because of the final result.

"Everything about the build-up to the game was so different to what I had experienced. I was left in no doubt that I was with a big club in every sense, and the scoreline simply confirmed it.

"I seemed to fit in right away and I couldn't have picked a better game for my debut. I'm from Bol-

ton, you see, so several members of my family had made the short trip along the road to Old Trafford."

The following week Paul made his bow in front of the Ipswich supporters at home and played a starring role in the 7-0 win over West Bromwich Albion.

His co-striker Trevor Whymark, with whom he struck up a devastating partnership, scored four goals that day and the new £240,000 record buy netted one.

It was ironic that Albion should be on the receiving end of such a hammering in Mariner's home debut. Because at one stage they were firm favourites to sign the

would be signing for Ipswich. All the papers were saying I was set to join West Brom, but my mind was made up."

Why was Mariner so convinced that Ipswich was the club for him? "I listened to what people within the game said about them," he explains, "and everyone gave Ipswich a glowing report. Also, I thought they would give me my best chance of getting among the honours."

Mariner could hardly have expected his words to ring true so soon. A spectacular headed goal defeated Champions Liverpool at Portman Road and within a few weeks he had helped Ipswich take



Paul signs for Ipswich, watched by Bobby Robson (top left) and Plymouth boss Tony Waiters (top right). John Peddelt (left) and Terry Austin (right) left Portman Road for Plymouth as part of the deal.

Seven goal blitz on home debut

star striker, Plymouth saying 'yes' to their £220,000 cash bid.

Mariner spent two hours with the then Albion boss Johnny Giles in a London hotel. He says: "Johnny spent a lot of time trying to sell me his club, but at the end of our chat I told him I'd need a couple of days to talk it over with my wife.

"I thought I'd be heading back to Plymouth on the train with Tony Waiters, the Argyle boss, who had travelled with me. But instead he took me to another hotel to meet Bobby Robson, explaining on the way that terms had now been agreed with Ipswich.

"That perked me up and after talking to Mr Robson I knew I

over at the top of the First Division.

But, looking back, he admits he still had a lot of work to do before being satisfied that he had 'arrived' in the big-time. "Pace was the thing that hit me hardest of all," he remembers.

"I had always done well in the sprints at Plymouth but I was amazed at the speed and sharpness of some of the Ipswich lads, especially Paul Cooper and Kevin Beattie. I soon decided a few extra training sessions were needed.

"I used to come back in the afternoons and gradually I improved my time over 100 yards. Then I set about making my finishing better and it wasn't long before I really felt like a different player with more confidence in my ability.

"The size of the fee embarrassed me at first. After all, I had only become a professional on my 20th birthday and here I was, less than



PAUL MARINER

part two

three years later, a record signing for the First Division leaders."

His headed goal past Ray Clemence brought Mariner into the full glare of publicity and it wasn't long before he was being nominated for an England cap. But he tried not to think about the possibility of international honours.

One person who had no doubt Paul would go on to represent his country was Ipswich boss Bobby Robson who had trailed him for some time before eventually



Trevor Whymark

clinching the deal. So highly did he rate Paul, however, that he ended up paying a lot more than he had at first intended.

"I feared I was going to lose out when the deal dragged on," says Robson. "But instead of packing in and letting him go elsewhere I decided to dig my heels in and not give up until I had signed him."

"I knew exactly what I was buying. He was a class performer, and the way he played in his first few games for us I knew it was only a matter of time before he would win his first cap."

Confirmation that Mariner was ready for the international stage came with the announcement that he was in Don Revie's squad for England's World Cup qualifying game against Luxembourg in March, 1977.

Paul heard the news via a telephone call at his Ipswich hotel, where he and his wife Ali were based while looking for a home in the area. "At first I couldn't believe it," he says, "but when I got to the ground and saw the photographers and TV crews I knew I was really in."

It didn't take him long to celebrate. That same day was rounded off in spectacular style when he netted his first hat-trick for Ipswich in the 4-1 home win over West Ham United that took the Suffolk club back to the top of the table.

And his goal touch did not desert him the following week either when he joined the other members of the England squad. In two Wembley practice games between 'probables' and 'possibles' he scored three goals to help his side to a 2-0 win and a 1-1 draw!

But when the big day arrived Paul was named as one of the five substitutes. When England only had one goal to show for their superiority in a one-sided first-half, however, the fans filled the Wemb-



Paul Mariner practises his sprint training, with team-mates Allan Hunter and Mick Mills.

ley air with chants of "Mariner, Mariner".

Don Revie took their advice and Paul was introduced for the entire second-half as England added a further four goals to their tally. He didn't hit the target himself, being robbed by the Luxembourg goalkeeper on two occasions.

Paul says: "It was the quickest

45 minutes of my career. No sooner was I warmed up and really enjoying myself than it was the final whistle. But I was pleased with my performance."

Manager Revie was also satisfied. He kept Paul in his squad for the British Championship and the tour of South America, and although he only played in one game out of six he was beginning to establish himself in the England set-up.

It wasn't long, however, before Paul was back to square one. Revie suddenly quit the job and the Football Association turned to West Ham supremo Ron Greenwood, the man who had tried just a year earlier to tempt Paul to Upton Park rather than Ipswich!

NEXT WEEK: Could Paul stay in the England reckoning? Would he be able to find the success he had hoped for at Ipswich? Read his comments in next week's final instalment.

England cap — then Revie resigns

Mariner (centre) celebrates as Trevor Francis scores for England in the 5-0 defeat of Luxembourg at Wembley.

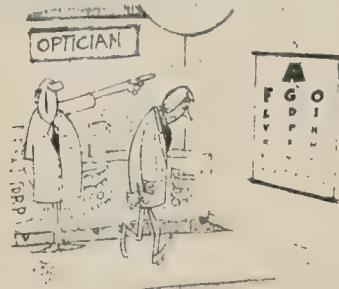


FOOTBALL FUNNIES

"The boss makes it sound so simple, forward in attack, retreat in defence, stand firm in the middle and blot out Kenny Dalglish."



"No, no . . . I'm not sending you off, I'm just pointing to the first letter."



"Our new 'keeper has a rather unfortunate name — Charlie Droppitt."



"If you don't stop using naughty words I'll give you such a thwack with my flaggy."

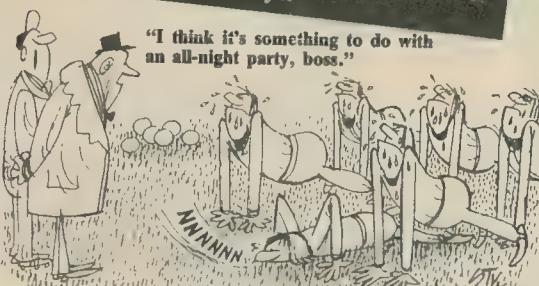


This week Ian Bowyer, Sunderland's recent £250,000 buy from Nottingham Forest, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.

"That was sheer magic. Now let's try it with the ball."



"I think it's something to do with an all-night party, boss."



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LIFE AT THE TOP...

Southampton recently marked their return to form by equaling a club record run of ten games without defeat. Pictured right are Charlie George (No. 9) and team-mate Nick Holmes after a goal in the 3-0 victory at Birmingham.



It certainly doesn't appear to be tough at the top for Aston Villa 'keeper Jimmy Rimmer, seen here sharing a joke with team-mate Kenny Swain.



In the Second Division there is no catching West Ham, the runaway leaders. Here Trevor Brooking celebrates a goal.

The strain begins to show on the face of Leicester manager Jock Wallace (left) as his relegation-haunted side struggle to escape from the foot of the First Division table.



AND THE BOTTOM

Not much has gone right for Crystal Palace goalkeeper Paul Barron (right) so far. His side have wallowed at the foot of the First Division virtually all season, and now a combination of injury and the arrival of on-loan Terry Gengee at Selhurst Park has meant a lack of opportunity for the man signed from Arsenal.



ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

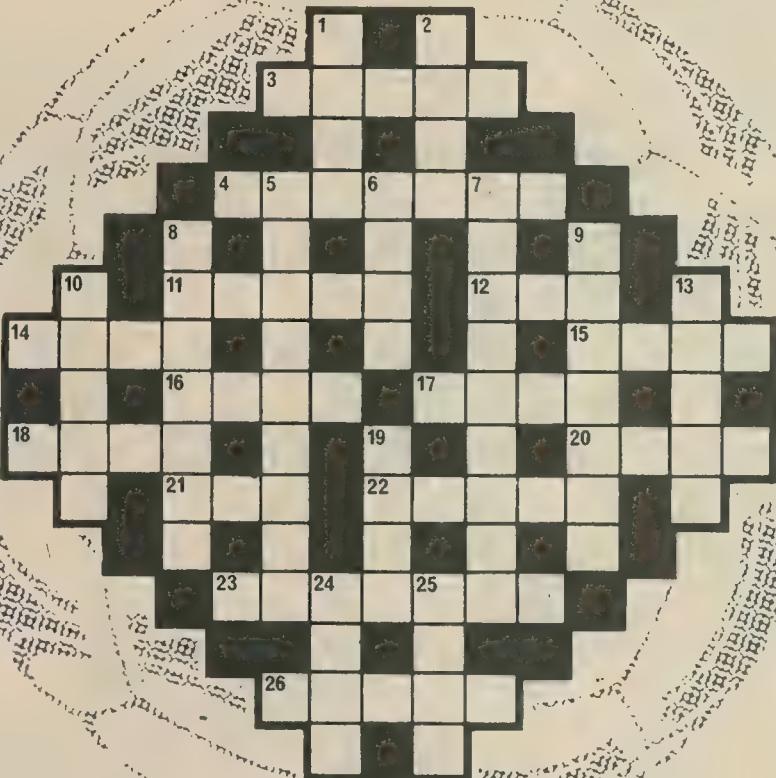
ACROSS:

- (3) Peter —, Coventry City striker. (5)
 (4) Malcolm —, Southampton defender. (7)
 (11) Clive — of Crystal Palace. (5)
 (12) If Grimsby, Stoke and Leeds give YES; what do Clyde, Doncaster and Chelsea give? (3)
 (14) Tranquil or windless. (4)
 (15) Sound of hard kick striking the ball, for instance. (4)
 (16) Fourth Division ---- Vale play at Vale Park. (4)
 (17) ---- Sexton, Manchester United manager. (4)
 (18) Certain portion of pitch contained by lines. (4)
 (20) Kevin —, Fulham defender. (4)
 (21) — McFarland; Derby County defender. (3)
 (22) Take five letters from Cliftonville (Irish club) to make a fruit or a girl's name. (5)

- (23) Ross —, Watford striker. (7)
 (26) Metal or surname of Oldham striker. (5)

DOWN:

- (1) An infringement of the rules. (4)
 (2) Take four letters from Falkirk for an opposite of Clue 1. (4)
 (5) Sam —, Sunderland defender. (9)
 (6) The ----, nickname of Wimbledon. (4)
 (7) A bad injury might necessitate this. (9)
 (8) Frank —, West Ham defender. (7)
 (9) Mark —, Coventry striker. (7)
 (10) — Lloyd, Nottingham Forest defender. (5)
 (13) Rapid or lively. (5)
 (19) Alan —, Wimbledon striker. (4)
 (24) Observe or record. (4)
 (25) Spread with sweet covering from the initial letters of Celtic, Dundee, Ipswich & Exeter. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 36

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THIS IS AN OFFICIAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PROMOTION

WOLVES have suffered a surprising lapse in League form this season following their position in the top six last May. But experienced midfielder Kenny Hibbitt issues a stern warning to those who believe the Molineux club may have to face a battle against relegation.

"There is no way we expect to be in any real danger of a drop into Division Two," says Kenny.

"We've struck a bad patch, but there are enough good players in the side to pull us out of it. We are concerned, but not worried about our slide, and are doing everything we can to put it right."

Chief among the things which Wolves are attempting to put right is the all-important one of style — and Hibbitt claims it was a change of technique that was responsible for the side obtaining some unsatisfactory results.

"This season we tried to improve by placing a bigger emphasis on attack, in contrast to our usual game in which we often depended on breaks from defence to score goals.

"But our new methods didn't suit us, and at a team meeting in January we decided to go back to the style that suited us so well last season. Our players adapt best to this method, so it's common sense for Wolves to revert to it.

"And by playing the sort of game that won us the League Cup last term plus a spot among the leaders in the First Division, we look to climb to



WOLVES GET BACK TO THEIR OLD HABITS



John Richards scores for Wolves in the 1-1 draw at Arsenal.

a safe position in the table.

"The quickest way to achieve this is by winning more away games. Last season, our record on other grounds was among the best in the League, but it was a big shock recently to realise that we had reached mid-season without chalking up a single League win when travelling."

In addition to his concern for Wolves' frustrating spell in the first half of this season, Hibbitt has been tackling a personal problem.

He says: "Up to Christmas, I had scored only one goal, then early in the New Year got one against Stoke in an F.A. Cup Third Round replay. Last season I was third top scorer, behind John Richards and Andy Gray, with 13 goals in League and Cup for Wolves. I expected to be on target fairly frequently in 1980-81."

"Admittedly, I missed the first half-dozen games through injury, but it doesn't alter the fact that I've not been finding the net as regularly as I have in the past."

"And of course it bothers me — the fans are

accustomed to me scoring a goal or two from 30 yards. When I'm not doing this I can imagine some supporters wondering among themselves whether my age and legs are going against me.

"But I can assure any doubters that I plan to get back on the goals trail. After all, scoring from midfield has given me a lot of pleasure during my ten years with Wolves, and I intend to keep on doing it."

Speaking with the authority of a man who has spent a decade at Molineux, Kenny says: "I've had a great career with Wolves, helped immensely by the fans, who have always been good to me. Perhaps, during the years, a move could have been to my benefit — that's the kind of thing players can wonder about."

"Yet, overall, I'm happy with what I've done in the game, and I'm determined that I'm going to do my future share in helping Wolves. I've not been happy with my form for some time, but I'm not discouraged — I'm going to bounce back, and so are Wolves."

MANAGERS AROUND THE WORLD

César Luis Menotti



ALBANIA

Loro Botici

César Luis Menotti

Rudi Gutendorf

Karl Stotz

Guy Thys

Ramiro Blacutt

Tele Santana

Atanas Parjelov

John MacMahon

Luis Santibáñez

Carlos Bilardo

Josef Venglos

Sepp Piontek

Roberto Saporiti

Esko Malm

Michel Hidalgo

Georg Buschner

Jupp Derwall

Aliketos Panagloulias

Kalman Meszoly

Juri Ilijcev

Joe Mansell

Enzo Bearzot

Viktor Xerri

Raul Cardeñas

Currently vacant

Tor Fossen

José Sasia

Marcos Calderon

Antonia Piechniczek

Juca

Stefan Kovacs

José Santamaría

Lars Arnesson

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GOAL-LINES

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This week's Star Letter comes from Andrew Ogun of Lagos, Nigeria, who wins a special SHOOT T-shirt. He writes:

WE'RE NOT GOING FOR THE RIDE

I am writing to express my views on Ray Clemence's comments that the World Cup Finals will be devalued by having 24 Finalists.

Although I am a fan of Ray's column, in this instance I don't share his views, and I'm sure many others don't, either.

He believes that of the 24 teams, 12 will be there for the ride, which is wrong.

I know he is referring to the African and Asian teams, but let me tell you, Mr. Clemence, none of the teams from Africa is a joke.

This is supported by the fact that their system of qualifying is harder than that of the European countries, who have their qualifiers based on a League system giving each team at least two chances, whereas in Africa it is decided on a straight knockout system to enable two qualifiers from 39 nations.

So therefore no team from Asia or Africa after struggling through at least 16 matches will go to Spain in 1982 for a ride.

Mr. Clemence also thinks that African, Asian and American teams will bring down the European teams to a lower level. I don't believe this, because football standards in Europe as a whole have gone down, e.g. Malmö made the European Cup Final in 1979 and the standard of the last European Cup Final, Cup-Winners' Cup Final and European Championship leaves much to be desired from the so-called sophisticated European soccer nations.

While the European soccer fans decline in number those in Africa rise higher. For instance, in Nigeria the lower teams in Division One have crowds of 20,000, while higher teams have crowds of 45,000. They would have even more, due to the fact that most stadium capacities are 45,000 seaters.

The lowest the national team gets is 50,000, while the African Champions Cup Finals were watched by more than 100,000 fans.

I warn you, Mr. Clemence, 1982 will judge — North Korea proved it in '66, Tunisia proved it in '78 and it will also be proved in '82.

I agree with Ray that having 24 Finalists will not be good for the World Cup. There will be even more poor games than usual — and no more good ones. I also doubt the capacity of Spain to organise a 24-team World Cup properly.



Forest boob

I THINK the Forest management pair of Clough and Taylor have made a very bad mistake in selling Ian Bowyer (above). I've been supporting Forest for five years (since they were in the Second Division) and I think he is one of the few players who has contributed so much to Forest and put in a great deal of effort into every game he's played.

If it hadn't been for Ian's experience and talented play over the last six and a half seasons then Forest wouldn't have had so much success as they have done.

I would much rather have seen Peter Ward leave Forest (who although has been given many chances has contributed about nil to Forest) especially now that Trevor Francis is back.

You may think that I'm making a mountain out of a mole-hill, but I don't think Bowyer will settle down and perform as well with Sunderland as he did at Forest.

His departure from Forest reminds me of when Clough and Taylor sold Archie Gemmill, which was another bad mistake and I think Forest fans will miss, as they did with Gemmill when he left, Ian's creative and experienced play.

I admire Brian Clough and Peter Taylor for what they've done at Forest but I also admire Ian Bowyer for the same thing.

MARCUS ALTON,
LOWDHAM.

• Ian is 30 next birthday and the £250,000 Forest received represented good business.



Celtic Park for Scotland

THERE has been much discussion recently about which stadium, Parkhead or Ibrox, should become Scotland's National Stadium once Hampden Park is finished with.

There seems to be no need for discussion as Celtic Park is the obvious, and, in fact, only alternative to Hampden.

I don't expect Rangers' fans to agree with me, therefore to save them writing letters of protest, I will give four main reasons why Parkhead is the only alternative to Hampden and which nobody can argue with because I will state FACTS.

1. Ibrox hasn't the crowd capacity for even the average Scotland game. Parkhead will hold 25,000-30,000 fans.
2. The majority of Scottish fans also support Rangers and bringing international football to Ibrox would also bring back the jeering of Celtic players, which only stopped recently due to the upsurge in nationalism.
3. Ibrox could never become a truly national stadium, as Rangers discriminate against about one sixth of the nation of Scotland.
4. Parkhead, unlike Ibrox, can accommodate invalid carriages.

The motto of Rangers is "Ready", something their stadium will never be for international football.

PAUL REEVES,
GLASGOW.

• Over to you, Rangers fans ...

British Rail correct

I BELIEVE British Rail are on the right track with their harsh action in banning drunken hooligans from attending Wembley for the forthcoming England/Scotland international in May.

When these louts completely ignore repeated past warnings for their vile language and disgusting behaviour the green light must show for action, not words.

Face facts, it must be a nightmare for parents with young children to share the same coaches as them, and I'm sure the B.R.'s harsh decision has the backing of the majority of their passengers.

JOHN JUDGE,
GLASGOW.

• Of course British Rail are right; a man was killed on a train from Scotland just before the last game.

Pen-Pals

I'M a 15-year-old Canadian boy who follows both North American Soccer and British Soccer. I support the Vancouver Whitecaps, and would be pleased to have a pen-friend from England to trade NASL souvenirs for British soccer souvenirs.

DARRIN DAVIES,
1860 GROVER AVE.,
COQUITLAM, B.C.,
CANADA V3J 3G6.

Petar the Great

AS we all know, football is on the down in England. But if we had more players like Chelsea's Petar Borota (left) I don't think it would be.

Petar is a great entertainer as well as a superb goalkeeper. Whether playing the top or bottom side he brings his own special sparkle to the game with handstands, and headers outside the area and 'over-done' saves, which always make him a great player to watch.

It seems almost ironic that he's not English.

PAUL CLARK,
BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

• Petar is great to watch, although I think he must give his defenders a few heart-attacks!

ASK THE EXPERT

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Record gate

What is the record attendance for a League match in Britain?

NICHOLAS GIANNAKIS,
GREECE

• Scotland's bigger grounds have the edge there, Nicholas — with 118,567 fans watching the Rangers-Celtic game at Ibrox Park on 2nd January, 1939.

As far as England goes, it's 83,260 for Manchester United's game with Arsenal on 17th January, 1948.

This latter match, incidentally, was played on Manchester City's ground at Maine Road — as Old Trafford was still out of action following extensive War-time bomb damage.

Goalscoring keeper

Which goalkeeper has scored the most Football League goals in a single season?

PAUL SITH,
HASTINGS

• A keeper named Arnold Birch holds that record, Paul.

In the old Third Division (North), in the 1923-24 season, he banged in five for Chesterfield — needless to say, from the penalty-spot.

Three in a game

Has anyone ever managed to score three penalties in an English First Division match?

MOHD IBRAHIM,
WEST MALAYSIA

• Well, I can trace three such spot-happy players. Mohd. First was Billy Walker — for Aston Villa v. Bradford City on 12th November, 1921.

And there have been at least two more cases since the last War — by Charlie Mitten (Manchester United v. Aston Villa, 8th March, 1950) and Ken Barnes (Manchester City v. Everton, 7th December, 1957).

SHORT PASSES

• The Leeds team which beat Arsenal 1-0 in the 1968 League Cup Final was — Sprake, Reaney, Cooper, Bremner, Charlton, Hunter, Greenhoff, Lorimer, Madeley, Giles, Gray; sub Belfitt (PETER WRIEDT, Denmark)

• Luther Blissett made his League debut for Watford, his only club, in a 1-0 home win over Barnsley on 3rd April, 1976.

(VIRGILIO DE NABREGA,
South Africa)

• Arsenal have been continuously in the First Division since the 1919-20 season.

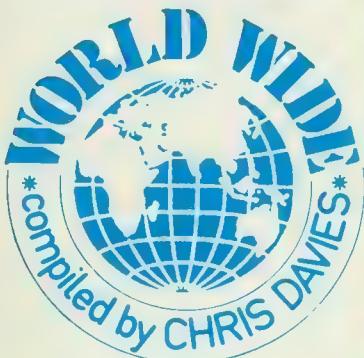
(JOHN POOLE, Aylesbury)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

MORE problems for Peru only a short while before they begin their bid to qualify for the 1982 World Cup Finals. National team manager Marcos Calderón has resigned, refusing to give his exact motives, but hinting at behind-the-scenes problems.

In a statement to the Press he simply announced his intention of "dedicating myself 100 per cent to managing Peruvian Champions Sporting Cristal during their Copa Libertadores campaign."

However, the latest reports from Peru indicate that the authorities have turned down Calderón's resignation.



President Pele?

PELÉ for President? It could happen if the 40-year-old soccer king's recent remarks are anything to go by.

"I'm not at all happy about the way most people have to live; nor about a lot of things that are happening in the world today. I'm beginning to feel an inner need to do something serious with my life," he says.

"I think that if I study conscientiously and prepare myself thoroughly for the task, I might be able to undertake a political career and help to improve the social conditions of the Brazilian people."

The day that Pelé (below) presents himself for election, I don't think he'll be short of votes! What offers for Kevin Keegan as Prime Minister?



NASL SYSTEM WRONG

THE 1981 North American Soccer League kicks-off on March 28th with 21 clubs instead of 24; Rochester, Houston and Johan Cruyff's Washington have folded. Obviously this year will be a vital one for the NASL and in an effort to encourage attacking play it will be possible to win 15 points for a victory, including points for goals.

I wonder, instead of becoming more outrageous, if the NASL wouldn't be better off becoming, by American standards, duller... with the League falling in line with the rest of the world.

The NASL regular season runs from March through to August. Then, 14 of the 21 clubs begin the Cup-like play-offs.

A team can have a very average regular season, hit form for the

SCHUSTER MYSTERY



WEST Germany's exciting midfield ace Bernd Schuster seems to have travelled from controversy at Cologne to controversy at Barcelona.

Despite being an instant hit with the Catalan fans because of his spectacular goalscoring talents, Schuster has run into problems with some of his team-mates due to his reluctance to work when the side is under pressure in away games.

Matters came abruptly to a head with reports that the 21-year-old midfielder had had a dressing room clash with Barcelona's top defender 'Tarzan' Miquell after Schuster had been 'excused' a trip to Bilbao for a Cup game against Bilbao.

At that stage, a man named Antoni Pages stirred things up even more. He was the man who arranged Schuster's transfer, and has been Bernd and his wife Gaby's 'godfather' since their arrival in Spain, sorting out accommodation, cars and even changing plugs when the Schusters had problems with the wayward Spanish electricity.

Pages leaked news to the Press that Bernd was terribly unhappy with the treatment he was receiving from his team-mates (he'd even walked out in disgust at a New Year's Eve celebration) and was heading back to Germany. Pages' revelations provoked an angry response from Barcelona manager Helenio Herrera, who got Schuster and Miquell to pose for photographers (above) and insisted that Pages was 'an intriguer and a liar.'

But two days later, the European Number Two was again headline news after leaving the Barcelona team hotel hours before the important derby against Espanol and hopping on a plane to Frankfurt.

The Barcelona directors are taking the heat out of the situation by claiming that Herrera had given Schuster permission to spend three days in Germany following the discovery of an ankle injury.

IN PARAGUAY, three Cerro Porteño players have been banned for two years after an official enquiry found them guilty of taking artificial stimulants.

The distasteful episode occurred when Cerro were involved in the final play-off for the 1980 title against Olimpia, and the trio of Peso, Florentin and Ortiz Aquino took drugs in a bid to boost their performances.

For the record, the drug-takers of Cerro lost the play-off.

REF CARRIES A GUN!

THE Spanish referees imported by Colombia to officiate at the vital Championship play-off matches have made some interesting comments on the state of the game in the South American country.

One of them alleged that the game is completely in the hands of the Mafia; another accuses reporters and radio com-

CATCH 22 FOR MARADONA

ARGENTINOS JUNIORS have once again stated that they simply can't afford to keep Argentine superstar Diego Maradona at the club.

The modest Buenos Aires outfit were offered six million dollars for Diego's signature by Barcelona about eight months ago, but as the South American Number One has been declared untransferable until after the 1982 World Cup, Argentinos were unable to go through with the deal.

The Argentine F.A. initially helped out with a substantial loan, but the club's president Prospero Consoli has now declared that Argentinos can't meet the repayments.

The only solution, he adds, is to transfer Maradona. But the club now wants ten million dollars for his transfer.

No Argentine club can hope to bid even a tiny fraction of that amount. Regulations prohibit his sale to a foreign club.

It's a Catch 22 situation, but Consoli reckons that Argentinos' financial position is so hopeless that something's simply got to give!

ARGENTINA'S top team River Plate have given their 62-year-old manager Angel Labruna (below) a new contract guaranteeing him a basic salary of £45,000 a year. With Labruna at the helm, River have won six Argentine titles in the last six years.



- 16-year-old Laurent Fournier recently made his League debut in France for Olympique Lyon away to AS Monaco. He is the youngest player to take part in the French League so far this season.

- The European team of the year chosen by Gol magazine in Czechoslovakia for 1980 is: Arconada (Spain); Kaltz (West Germany), Krol (Holland), Collovati (Italy), Renguin (Belgium); Van Moer (Belgium), Schuster (West Germany), Briegel (West Germany), Hansi Müller (West Germany); Rummenigge (West Germany), Ceulemans (Belgium).

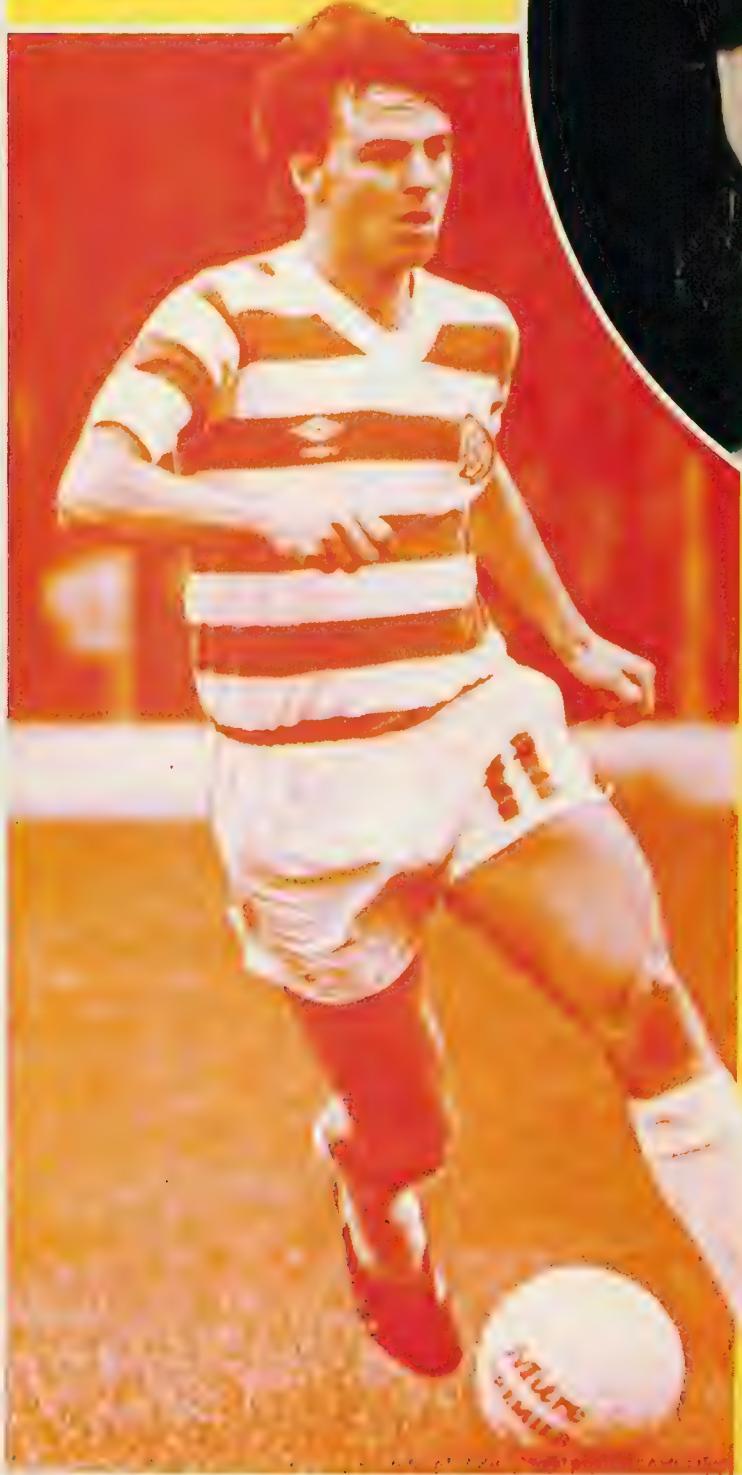
- Attendances at West German Bundesliga matches so far this season are a total of 250,000 down on the same stage in 1979-80. The biggest overall gate this season was on the opening day of the season when there was an average crowd of 33,300, but that average dropped steadily and crashed to only 14,700 for one day's play on snow and ice.

- A crowd of more than 5,000 in Kiev were at the wedding of Dynamo star, 28-year-old Oleg Blokhin when he married Irina Derjoechina. She is twice a gymnastic World Champion, while he was voted European Footballer of the Year in 1975.

FOCUS ON

Charlie Nicholas

CELTIC



FULL NAME: Charles Nicholas
BIRTHPLACE: Glasgow
BIRTHDATE: December 30, 1961
HEIGHT: 5ft 9ins
WEIGHT: 10st 8lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Celtic Boys Club
MARRIED: No
CAR: Not at present
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Glasgow Herald
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Kenny Dalglish
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Danny Crainie
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Celtic reserves
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Jimmy Johnstone
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf, snooker
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Cotec of Politehnica (Rumania)
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My debut v Partick Thistle
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: My Old Firm debut

FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: None
FAVOURITE FOOD & DRINK: Salmon and chips, Irn Bru
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Playing well and winning/Losing
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Benidorm
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Jack Nicholson/Joan Collins
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Staying in bed
FAVOURITE SINGERS: The Clash, Joe Jackson, Sex Pistols
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Go out with friends
BEST FRIEND: Hope I have a few
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father and Frank Connor. Both made and helped me progress to the first team
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scotland Youth and Under 21 caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To keep my place in the Celtic side
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Motor mechanic
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Pope

SHREWSBURY TOWN



CLUB SPOTLIGHT

SHREWSBURY Town's Dennis Rueli is that they live in the quiet shadow cast by their illustrious First Division neighbours - West Ham United and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Shrewsbury have done well to gain Second Division status, climbing out of the Third Division as title-holder in 1978-79 yet are not truly deserved as an imminent升級 candidate because of their financial instability.

Nonetheless, Graham Turner, the club's

newly-appointed manager, has done well to gain promotion this season. His team has been the poor form of Shrewsbury's talented striker John Dungworth signed in November 1979 from Anderston for £100,000. Incidentally, Dungworth has been relegated to the reserves for more than a month after the

club's financial difficulties forced him to leave the club. Dungworth, who has been a regular in the first team since his arrival last summer, has been a major disappointment this season. He has scored only one goal in 16 appearances, and so is my assistant, Graham Hawkins.

Fortunately, the club's enterprising

poorest goalscoring run of his career. "It'll come back, but he's lost confidence and it's better that he drops down a bit," Turner explains.

"We need a year or two for those youngsters to mature. We have got into the last 16 of the F.A. Youth Cup, knocking out the holders Aston Villa, and given time these boys will become first teamers."

Dawson, along with the young players, is doing a marvellous job, and so is my assistant, Graham Hawkins.

Fortunately, if they had to rely on gates they would go out of business.

Sixty-five thousand people live in the town

and we've had to mature," he said. "The youngsters just need time to mature."

We should get bigger audiences. If we were leading the Fourth Division, I think we'd be bigger audiences. It's the honeymoon as over," says Turner.

"I've been here eight years and this is the best squad we've had," he said. "The young

players have got into the last 16 of the F.A. Youth Cup, knocking out the holders Aston Villa, and given time these boys will become first teamers."

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HONOURS

Third Division Champions 1978-79

Fourth Division runners-up 1974-75

League Cup Semi-Finalists 1961

Welsh Cup winners 1891, 1938, 1977, 1979.

Record last season: Second Division: 13th.

F.A. Cup: Third Round, League Cup: Second Round.

SHOOT!

IT remains to be seen whether Saturday, January 24, 1981, becomes a water-shed in Everton's post-War history, but there are ample signs that that red letter date last month could herald a new beginning for a club which has struggled for too long.

Only the uninitiated would fail to grasp the significance of the date. It represents the moment Everton progressed to the Fifth Round of the F.A. Cup at the expense of their deadly foe Liverpool.

A 2-1 scoreline at Goodison Park sent the Reds reeling out of the prestigious competition, yet the feeling on Merseyside in the aftermath of that shock result is that Everton could be on the verge of a significant recovery from years in the doldrums.

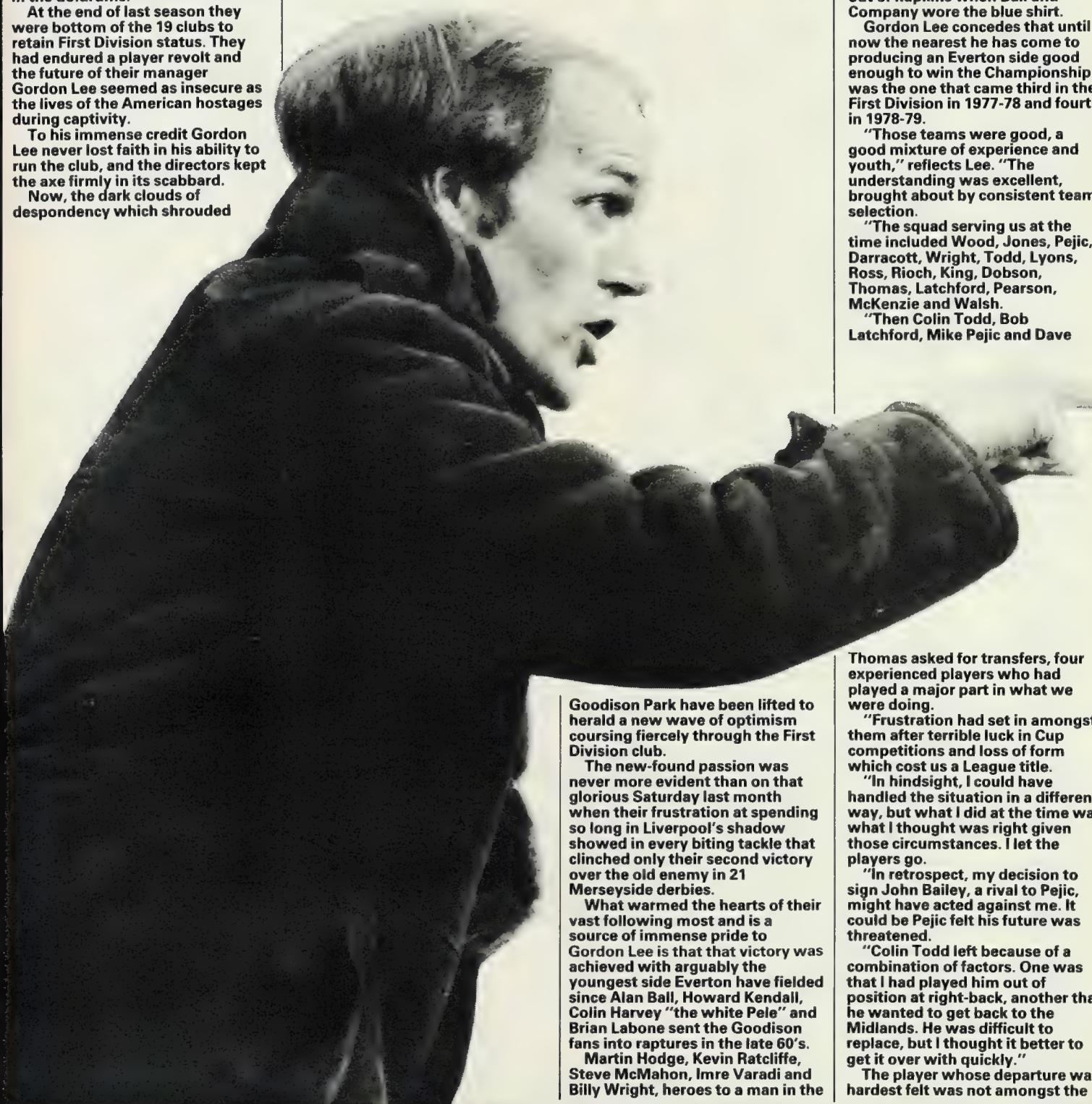
At the end of last season they were bottom of the 19 clubs to retain First Division status. They had endured a player revolt and the future of their manager Gordon Lee seemed as insecure as the lives of the American hostages during captivity.

To his immense credit Gordon Lee never lost faith in his ability to run the club, and the directors kept the axe firmly in its scabbard.

Now, the dark clouds of despondency which shrouded

SPECIAL REPORT by Bill Day

EVERTON REVIVAL



Goodison Park have been lifted to herald a new wave of optimism coursing fiercely through the First Division club.

The new-found passion was never more evident than on that glorious Saturday last month when their frustration at spending so long in Liverpool's shadow showed in every biting tackle that clinched only their second victory over the old enemy in 21 Merseyside derbies.

What warmed the hearts of their vast following most and is a source of immense pride to Gordon Lee is that victory was achieved with arguably the youngest side Everton have fielded since Alan Ball, Howard Kendall, Colin Harvey "the white Pele" and Brian Labone sent the Goodison fans into raptures in the late 60's.

Martin Hodge, Kevin Ratcliffe, Steve McMahon, Imre Varadi and Billy Wright, heroes to a man in the

defeat of Liverpool, were barely out of napkins when Ball and Company wore the blue shirt.

Gordon Lee concedes that until now the nearest he has come to producing an Everton side good enough to win the Championship was the one that came third in the First Division in 1977-78 and fourth in 1978-79.

"Those teams were good, a good mixture of experience and youth," reflects Lee. "The understanding was excellent, brought about by consistent team selection.

"The squad serving us at the time included Wood, Jones, Pejic, Darracott, Wright, Todd, Lyons, Ross, Rioch, King, Dobson, Thomas, Latchford, Pearson, McKenzie and Walsh.

"Then Colin Todd, Bob Latchford, Mike Pejic and Dave

Thomas asked for transfers, four experienced players who had played a major part in what we were doing.

"Frustration had set in amongst them after terrible luck in Cup competitions and loss of form which cost us a League title.

"In hindsight, I could have handled the situation in a different way, but what I did at the time was what I thought was right given those circumstances. I let the players go.

"In retrospect, my decision to sign John Bailey, a rival to Pejic, might have acted against me. It could be Pejic felt his future was threatened.

"Colin Todd left because of a combination of factors. One was that I had played him out of position at right-back, another that he wanted to get back to the Midlands. He was difficult to replace, but I thought it better to get it over with quickly."

The player whose departure was hardest felt was not amongst the

Gang of Four. Martin Dobson was transferred to Burnley when his contract expired, a considerable loss to Everton's midfield power.

"He was our Rolls-Royce," says Lee. "He could hold the ball, slow the game, dictate play like a general does his troops. But his legs were getting older and I could only offer him what I thought was right for a player of his age, and he decided to go."

A tribute to Gordon Lee's understanding of players and their problems is that he fully understood the frustrations of the players who opted out of Goodison in the rebellion.

"Players want to win. Managers want to win. There is no point in being in this game unless you win something."

Idols

The player revolt was a turning point in Lee's career. He tried to replace his vanishing idols by splashing out huge sums in the transfer market. The players he wanted chose other clubs, and now he has turned to youth to achieve the glory Everton demand.

"I was conscious of the need to bring success to Everton when I joined the club," he explains. "But they wanted it to be achieved in a sophisticated manner. The club has been brought up on good football. Thomas' wing play was the type of football the original Evertonian would have admired. The Todds, Pejics and Dobsons were also of this traditional mould.

"I believe that when Todd was at Everton he was a better player than Beckenbauer. He should be playing for England now but lacks something in his make-up. The game has been too easy to Colin. He doesn't like flying to New Zealand and the hard but necessary things of being an England player."

"We just didn't think it was right to go mad with the cheque book to replace them. I wanted Andy Gray, an old fashioned centre-forward in the Dixie Dean-Tommy Lawton mould. He was too expensive.

"I wanted Ray Wilkins, an intelligent, clean-cut midfield player with little bits of Ball, Harvey and Kendall about him. He went to United.

"Steve Daley was also on our list. Wolves' manager John Barnwell wanted one of our players, but that fell through."

Circumstances left Gordon Lee no alternative but to blood his younger players to fill the gaps in his team, and that significant moment was possibly a major turning point for the club.

"I decided I'd play my young lads. There was no way I'd play those on the transfer list because they were clearly not part of the club's future.

"If Kevin Bond, of Norwich, was one of my players, he'd be in the reserves if he asked for a transfer. Much better to use a player who is part of your future.

"At the end of last season I called all the players in to ask them bluntly: 'Do you want to stay, or go?' I transferred Brian Kidd because I wanted to use a younger player and Andy King left for Queens Park Rangers.

"The reason I didn't go so much for youth when I first came to the club is because I thought the Goodison arena would frighten them off. I thought the senior players would handle it better.

"Three years ago I wouldn't have thought it possible to be successful in the First Division with a young side. I've changed my mind."

Players of the calibre of Steve McMahon have helped influence Gordon Lee's change of attitude.

He states boldly: "There is not another midfield player in the country I would swap him for. He's got all the qualities. I wouldn't swap him for Trevor Brooking. McMahon plays with passion, a will to win. He's different from a lot of midfield players in that he will get forward to score goals, do his marking, and generally run the midfield, a tribute to his parents upbringing as much as our coaching and his own natural talent.

"Some youngsters lose their way with stars in their eyes on joining a big club. Not Steve, he's as nice as he was when he joined.

"There are players playing for England without the all-round qualities that Stevie possesses. I admire Wilkins as a player, but he can't score goals for England. If Trevor Brooking scores a goal it's a bonus — and a rarity.

"Where are the Balls, the Kendalls and the Harveys? McMahon excites me as much as that illustrious trio once did."

Given time Everton's nursery of thoroughbred talent could yet emulate the feats of their predecessors as the slumbering Goodison giant comes excitingly back to life.

● NEXT WEEK: Backstage at Everton.

Steve
McMahon



Martin Dobson's departure was deeply felt at Goodison.



Imre
Varadi



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS...

Saturday, January 10

Second Division

(Continued)

GRIMSBY (1) 4 (Cumming, Waters pen, Drin-kell 2)

BOLTON (0) 0 9,320

Grimbsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Broly, Ford, Drinkell, Mitchell, Waters, Wiggin-ton, Moore, Cumming (Liddell).

Bolton: Peacock, Graham, McElhinney, Wilson, Gowling, Brennan, Nikolic (Nicholson), Thomas, Hoggan, Kidd, Bennett.

LUTON (1) 2 (Moss, Price)

CARDIFF (1) 2 (Kitchen, Giles)

9,013

Luton: Findlay, West, Donaghy, Grealish, Saxby, Price, Hill, Stein, Ingram, Aizlewood, Moss.

Cardiff: Healey, Roberts, Thomas, Hughes, Pontin, Dwyer, Giles, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan (Micallef).

NOTTS COUNTY 0

SHREWSBURY 0 7,133

Notts County: Leonard, Benjamin, Wood (McPharlan), Hunt, Kilcline, Beaven, Manns, Masson, Christie, Har-kouk, Hooks.

Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Bates, Petts, Cross.

ORIENT (1) 2 (Jennings, Bowles pen)

OLDHAM (2) 3 (Palmer 2, Keegan)

4,048

Orient: Day, Hughton, Roffey, Taylor T, Gray, Parsons, Chiodozio, Mayo, Jennings, Bowles, Taylor P.

Oldham: Platt, Sinclair, Blair, Keegan, Clements, Hurst, Edwards, Hilton, Nuttal, Palmer, McDonough.

QPR (0) 1 (Stainrod)

PRESTON (0) 1 (Bell)

8,415

QPR: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Roeder, Neal, King, Stainrod, Currie, Silman.

Preston: Tunks, Westwell, McAteer, Bell, Baxter, O'Riordan, Doyle, Coleman, Elliott, McGee, Houston.

SHEFFIELD WED 0

CHELSEA 0 25,113

Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Shirdiff P, Sterland, Pearson, Johnson, Leman, McCullach, Curran.

Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rose, Elmes, Droy, Chivers, Britton, Fillery, Lee, Walker, Rhoades-Brown (Driver).

WEMBLEY

WEST HAM (1) 2 (Pike, Cross)

22,110

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.

SWANSEA (0) 1 (Curtis)

WEST HAM (2) 3 (Brooking, Pike, Cross)

22,110

Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadzibabic, Mahoney, Stevenson, Phillips, James (R), Curtis, James (L) (Giles), Charles, Robinson.

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin,

Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.

WREXHAM 0

NEWCASTLE 0 6,437

Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Jones, Davis, Cegielinski, Arkwright, Fox, Sutton, Edwards (Vinter), McNeil, Cartwright.

Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnston, Martin, Boam,

Halliday, Shinton, Trewick, Harford, Wharton, Waddle.

KILMARNOCK (1) 2 (Mauchlien, Docherty)

ST MIRRIN (0) 0 4,400

Kilmarnock: Wilson, McLean, Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, McDicken, Docherty, Clarke, Bourke, Mauchlien, Hughes.

St Mirren: Thomson, Young, Beckett, McCormack (McDougall), Fulton, Dunlop, Bone, Stark, Somner,

Richardson, Weir.

MORTON (0) 0

RANGERS (1) 2 (MacDonald, Redford)

13,000

Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, McNeill (Ritchie), Marr, Busby, Tolmie, Houston (Cochrane).

Rangers: McCloy, Miller, Dawson, Jardine, Stevens,

Bett, Cooper, Russell, McAdam, Redford, MacDonald.

Third Division

BARNESLEY (1) 2 (Lester, Aylott)

PLYMOUTH (0) 1 (Kemp)

11,335

CHARLTON (3) 3 (Tydeman, Hales, Walker)

HULL (0) 2 (Roberts (J), Edwards)

6,494

CHESTER 0

BRENTFORD 0 2,041

COLCHESTER (1) 3 (Foley, Gough 2)

BLACKPOOL (1) 2 (Morris, Ball)

2,378

EXETER (0) 0

WALSALL (1) 3 (O'Kelly, Hart, Buckley)

4,590

HUDDERSFIELD (2) 4 (Stanton 2, Austin, Cowling)

NEWPORT (1) 1 (Lowndes)

9,063

MILLWALL (1) 3 (Chatterton, Mehmet, Bartley)

FULHAM (1) 1 (Davies)

6,002

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 (Gregory pen)

SHEFF UTD (0) 0

14,321

READING (2) 3 (Hetzke 2 (1 pen), Dixon)

CARLISLE (1) 1 (Coughlin)

3,957

ROTHERHAM 0

OXFORD 0

6,705

SWINDON (0) 0

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Moss)

6,717

Gillingham v Burnley postponed

Fourth Division

CREWE (0) 0

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 2 (Mooney 2)

3,087

DONCASTER (1) 3 (Saunders, Lister, Little pen)

ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Crosby)

4,502

HALIFAX (1) 1 (Graham)

TRANMERE (0) 1 (Kelly)

1,268

HARTELEPOOL (1) 3 (Newton 2 (1 pen), Hogan)

PORT VALE (0) 0

3,058

HEREFORD (0) 0

BURY (1) 1 (Hilton)

2,382

LINCOLN (0) 1 (Turner)

BRADFORD (1) 1 (Wood)

4,670

NORTHAMPTON (0) 0

MANSFIELD (1) 1 (McClelland)

2,985

SCUNTHORPE (0) 1 (Green)

PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Robson)

2,064

YORK (1) 2 (McDonald, Richards)

WIGAN (0) 1 (Urquhart)

2,028

Wimbledon v Rochdale postponed

Scottish Premier

CELTIC (2) 2 (Nicholas, McGarvey)

DUNDEE UNITED (0) 1 (Milne)

22,000

Celtic: Bonner, McGrail, Reid, Sullivan, McAdam, Aitken, Provan, Weir McGarvey, Burns, Nicholas.

Dundee United: McAlpine, Kirkwood, Kopel, Phillip, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Pettigrew (Milne), Gibson (Addison), Sturrock, Dodds

HEARTS (0) 0

ABERDEEN (1) 2 (McCall, McGhee)

7,999

Hearts: Brough, Hamilton, Shields, More, Liddell, Masterton (Robinson), Hamill, Gibson, Conn (O'Connor), O'Brien, McDonald.

Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvie (Considine), Watson, McLeish, Miller, Simpson, McCall, McGhee, (Jarvie), Angus, Hewitt.

KILMARNOCK (1) 2 (Mauchlien, Docherty)

ST MIRRIN (0) 0

4,400

Kilmarnock: Wilson, McLean, Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, McDicken, Docherty, Clarke, Bourke, Mauchlien, Hughes.

St Mirren: Thomson, Young, Beckett, McCormack (McDougall), Fulton, Dunlop, Bone, Stark, Somner,

Richardson, Weir.

MORTON (0) 0

RANGERS (1) 2 (MacDonald, Redford)

13,000

Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Rooney, McLaughlin, Orr, McNeill (Ritchie), Marr, Busby, Tolmie, Houston (Cochrane).

Rangers: McCloy, Miller, Dawson, Jardine, Stevens,

Bett, Cooper, Russell, McAdam, Redford, McDonald.

SWANSEA (0) 1 (Curtis)

WEST HAM (2) 3 (Brooking, Pike, Cross)

22,110

Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadzibabic, Mahoney, Stevenson, Phillips, James (R), Curtis, James (L) (Giles), Charles, Robinson.

West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin,

Devonshire, Holland, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.

WREXHAM 0

NEWCASTLE 0 6,437

Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Jones, Davis, Cegielinski, Arkwright, Fox, Sutton, Edwards (Vinter), McNeil, Cartwright.

Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnston, Martin, Boam, Halliday, Shinton, Trewick, Harford, Wharton, Waddle.



Bobby McDonald heads Manchester City's first against Middlesbrough.

Third Division

PARTICK (0) 1 (Park)

AIRDRIE (0) 0

3,000

Partick: Rough, Welsh (McDonald), Whittaker, Anderson, Campbell, Watson, Park, Jardine, Sweeney, Doyle, Clark (J.)

Airdrie: Martin, Cairney, Rodger, McCluskey, March, McCulloch, Russell, Clark, McKeown, Walker, McGuire (Thomson).

SCOTTISH CUP

(Second Round)

ALBION (0) 1 (Campbell)

ARBROATH (1) 1 (Harley)

450

SCOTTISH FIRST

BERWICK (0) 1 (Tait)

HAMILTON (0) 0

647

DUMBARTON (0) 0

FALKIRK (0) 1 (Brown)

700

MOTHERWELL (3) 3 (Clelland, Irvine, McLaughlin)

AYR (1) 2 (Christie, Love)

2,554

STIRLING (0) 0

ST JOHNSTONE (1) 1 (Morton)

1,450

Dundee v Dunfermline, East Stirling v Clydebank postponed.

SCOTTISH SECOND

ALBION (0) 3 (Campbell, Houston, Meikle)

CLYDE (1) 3 (Dempster 2, Ahern pen)

500

ALLOA (1) 2 (McComb, McIntosh)

MEADOWBANK (1) 1 (Georgeson)

755

MONTROSE (0) 1 (Wright)

ARBROATH (0) 2 (McKenzie, Harley)

950

QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 (McGregor pen)

FORFAR (2) 3 (Brash pen, Clark, Gallagher)

906

Stenhousemuir v Brechin postponed.

SCOTTISH CUP

(Second Round replay)

ARBROATH (1) 1 (Harley)

ALBION (0) 0

500

SCOTTISH DIVISION

F.A. CUP

(Third Round, second replay)

FULHAM (0) 1 (Davies)

BURY (0) 0

2,468 At WBA

Wrexham v West Ham postponed.

SCOTTISH CUP

(Second Round replay)

ARBROATH (1) 1 (Harley)

ALBION (0) 0

500

SCOTTISH DIVISION

F.A. CUP

(Third Round, second replay)

FULHAM (1) 2 (Mahoney, Wilson)

BARNESLEY (1)

LINE-UPS... RESULTS...

Fourth Division

TRANMERE (1) 3 (Parry, Kelly, Beamish)
NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Bramhall (og),
Bowen) 1,254
Port Vale v Scunthorpe postponed.

Saturday, January 17

First Division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 0
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 3 (Moran, Channon,
Keegan) 16,491
Birmingham: Coton, Langan, Hawker, Curthorne, Gal-
lager, Tadd, Ainscow, Bertschin, Worthington, Gem-
mill (Handysides), Dillon.
Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Watson
(Agboola), Nicholl, Keegan, Channon, George, Moran,
Baker.

COVENTRY (0) 1 (Hateley)
ASTON VILLA (0) 2 (Morley, Withe) 27,000
Coventry: Sealey, Coop, Roberts, Blair, Dyson, Gillies-
pie, Thomas, Day, Thompson, Ferguson (Hateley),
Hunt.
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught,
Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.

CRYSTAL PALACE 0
WOLVES 0 15,080
C. Palace: Gennoe, Hinshelwood, Boyle, Nicholas,
Cannon, Gilbert, Murphy, Francis, Sealy, Allen, Smillie.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Hollifield, Daniel (Parkin),
McAllie, Berry, Hibbit, Atkinson, Bell, Richards, Eves

EVERTON 0
IPSWICH 0 25,516
Everton: McDonagh, Ratcliffe, Bailey, Wright, Lyons,
Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe
(McBride).
Ipswich: Cooper, Burley, Mills, Thijssen, Osman,
Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.

LEICESTER (0) 0
LEEDS (0) 1 (Hart) 16,094
Leicester: Wallington, Goodwin, Friar, Peake (Melrose),
Scott, O'Neill, Williams, Buchanan, Henderson,
Smith, Wilson.
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry,
Harris, Hird, Connor, Sabella (Chandler), Graham.

MANCHESTER CITY (2) 3 (McDonald, Reeves,
Hutchison)
MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 2 (Hodgson,
McAndrew) 30,774
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson (Bennett), McDonald,
Reid, Power, Caton, Boyer, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchi-
son, Reeves.
Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, McAndrew,
Angus, Bell, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Shearer
(Jankovic), Armstrong.

NORWICH (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (1) 1 (McDermott) 23,829
Norwich: Baker, Bond, Barham, McGuire (Jack), Wat-
son, McDowell, Mendham, Bennett, Royle, Paddon,
Robson.
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy A, Thompson,
Kennedy R, Irwin, Dalglish, Lee, Fairclough (Case),
McDermott, Souness.

TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Archibald 2)
ARSENAL (0) 0 32,994
Tottenham: Daines, McAllister, Miller, Roberts, Lacy
(Vorath), Perryman, Brooke, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle,
Crooks.
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, McDermott, Wal-
ford, Young, Hollins, Sunderland, Stapleton, Gatting,
Rix.

WEST BROM (1) 2 (Regis, Barnes)
BRIGHTON (0) 0 15,643
West Brom: Godden, Robertson, Cowdrill, Moses,
Wile, Bennett, Robson, Brown, Regis, Owen, Barnes.
Brighton: Digweed, Gregory, Stevens, Foster, Lawrenson,
McNab, Ritchie, Robinson, Clark, O'Sullivan.

Stoke v Nottm. Forest, Sunderland v Man.
Utd. postponed.

Second Division

BRISTOL CITY 0
WATFORD 0 8,746
Bristol City: Shaw, Sweeney, Hay, Aitken, Rodgers,
Marshall, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbett, Ritchie (Chandler),
Pritchard.
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Harrison, Taylor, Sims,
Jackett, Callaghan, Blissett, Armstrong, Train, Poskett.

CAMBRIDGE (1) 3 (Spriggs 2 (1 pen.), Streete)
SWANSEA (1) 1 (Curtis) 5,121

Cambridge: Key, Donaldson, Murray, Smith, Fallon,
Finney, Streete, Spriggs, Reilly, Taylor, Christie.
Swansea: Stewart, Attley, Hadzibabic, Charles,
Stevenson, Phillips, Mahoney, James (R), Curtis, Giles
Robinson (Rushbury).

GRIMSBY (1) 2 (Cumming, Drinkell)
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0 9,601
Grimbsy: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wiggin, Moore,
Broly (Whymark), Drinkell, Ford, Mitchell, Cumming.
Bristol Rovers: Kite, Gillies, Jones, Williams, Hughes
(Routledge), McCaffery, Emmanuel, Griffiths, Mabbett,
Lee, Barrowclough.

LUTON (0) 0
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Harford) 10,774
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Greasham, West,
Price, Hill, Stein, Ingram (Fuccillo), Aizlewood, Moss.
Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnson, Martin, Boam,
Halliday, Shinton, Trewick, Harford, Wharton, Waddle.

NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Hooks)
WEST HAM (1) 1 (Holland) 13,718
Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly,
Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt,
Hooks.
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Brush, Bonds, Martin,
Devonshire, Holland (Allen), Goddard, Cross, Brooking,
Pike.

ORIENT (0) 2 (Mayo, Taylor (P))
CARDIFF (0) 2 (Maddy 2) 3,838
Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor (T), Gray, Parsons,
Chiedozie, Mayo, Jennings, Bowles, Taylor (P).
Cardiff: Healey, Roberts, Thomas, Hughes, Pontin,
Maddy, Giles, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan.



Liverpool's Ray Kennedy, on target against
Man. City.

Q.P.R. (0) 1 (Langley)
CHELSEA (0) 0 22,873
Q.P.R.: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks,
Roeder, Langley, King, Stainrod, Currie, Silkman.
Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rose, Burnstead, Droy, Chiv-
ers, Britton, Fillery, Mayes, Walker, Rhoades-Brown
(Elmes).

SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Bates)
BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Burke) 5,212
Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Petts, Keay, Griff-
in, Tong, Turner (Biggins), Atkins, Bates, Cross.
Blackburn: Butcher, Branagan, De Vries, Kendall,
Keeler (Hamilton), Fazackerley, Brotherston, Garner,
Stonehouse, Burke, Speight.

Bolton v Derby, Oldham v Wrexham, Preston v
Sheff. Wed. postponed.

Third Division

BLACKPOOL 0
READING 0 3,273
BRENTFORD 0
HUDDERSFIELD 0 5,380

CHESTERFIELD (0) 0
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Hales) 9,563

OXFORD (1) 2 (Shotton, Jeffrey)
COLCHESTER (0) 1 (Foley) 3,498

PLYMOUTH (2) 2 (Murphy, Cdoper)
MILLWALL (0) 0 4,847

SHEFF. UTD. (0) 0
GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (Ford pen) 8,778

WALSALL (0) 2 (Waddington, Baines)
CHESTER (1) 1 (Jones) 3,483
Burnley v Portsmouth, Carlisle v Exeter, Hull v
Swindon postponed.

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (1) 3 (Hampshire 2, McGregor)
STOCKPORT (0) 0 2,020

BOURNEMOUTH (2) 2 (Morgan, Ferns)
HALIFAX (0) 1 (Firth pen) 2,413

MANSFIELD (3) 4 (Lumby, Caldwell, Wood,
Mann)
CREWE (0) 1 (Greenhoff) 3,202

PETERBOROUGH (2) 3 (Hodgson, Slack,
Kellock)
YORK (0) 0 3,954

ROCHDALE (0) 2 (Taylor, Wellings pen)
DONCASTER (1) 2 (Snodin (I), Pugh) 3,021

TORQUAY (1) 2 (Cooper, Lawrence)
HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Newton) 1,745
Bradford v Southend, Bury v Lincoln, Darlington
v Wimbledon, Wigan v Hereford postponed.

Scottish Premier

All matches postponed.

Scottish First

AYR (0) 3 (Connor, Nichol, McCutcheon)
ST. JOHNSTONE (2) 3 (Pelosi, McCoist 2) 2,364

HIBERNIAN (0) 1 (Paterson)
FALKIRK (0) 0 4,670
The remaining matches postponed.

Scottish Second

All matches postponed.

Monday, January 19

F.A. Cup

(Third Round, second replay)

WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil)
WEST HAM (0) 0 AET 14,000
Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Jones, Davis (Vinter), Cegielski,
Arkwright, Fox, Sutton, Edwards, McNeil, Cartwright.
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Brush, Bonds, Martin,
Devonshire, Allen (Neighbour), Goddard, Cross,
Brooking, Pike.

Fourth Division

WIMBLEDON (0) 2 (Cork (pen), Galliers)
SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Green, O'Berg) 2,112

Friday, January 23

Fourth Division

SOUTHEND 0
NORTHAMPTON 0 5,023

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, February 7th

W.B.A. v Liverpool

NOWADAYS a lot of clubs would describe Liverpool as their bogey team, none more than West Bromwich Albion, who entertain the Reds for the 49th time in a League game on their home ground on Saturday.

Albion have only been able to beat Liverpool once in the last ten First Division games at home and, indeed, have only beaten them once in 21 games home and away! That solitary victory was in 1971-72 when Tony Brown got the only goal of a hectic tussle. Since then Liverpool have won three times and drawn twice at The Hawthorns.

Liverpool gained a decisive 4-0 win against Albion at Anfield in September, their biggest win over the same opposition since a 5-0 victory at Anfield in 1935, but Albion may be able to swing matters more their way on this occasion.

Everton v Villa

ONE could write a book about the clashes between these two great clubs, for this will be their 134th meeting in the Football League. So far Everton hold a slight lead with 54 wins to Villa's 50 with 29 games drawn.

Last September Everton gained their first away win for over a year with their 2-0 victory at Villa Park and should now be on the easier end of a League double, except that in their present mood Villa are anything but easy.

The last two First Division games between these two sides at Goodison have resulted in 1-1 draws and Villa have only won once on this ground in their last 11 League visits — in 1976-77 when Brian Little and Mike Lyons (o.g.) were their scorers in a 2-0 victory.

Villa's biggest League win at Goodison was 4-0 in September, 1956, all the goals coming in the second-half — Jackie Sewell two, Johnny Dixon and Les Smith.

Boro v Sunderland

THE last time Sunderland won at Middlesbrough, a centre-forward called Brian Clough scored the only goal. That was back in March, 1962, and is Sunderland's only victory at Ayresome Park in their last 12 visits, although they managed a 3-3 draw there in 1962-63 and stole another point with a 2-2 draw in 1970-71. Clough scored again in that 3-3 draw, which was not surprising considering he had been a leading goalscorer for Middlesbrough before moving to Roker Park in 1961.

Stan Cummins is currently the goalscorer in the Sunderland side with previous experience as a Middlesbrough player, and although he doesn't pretend to be as prolific as Brian Clough in his heyday, he could help Sunderland to a point if he plays on Saturday.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



PAST STARS...

1. Gil Merrick played 23 times for the full England side during the 1950's. Was he a goalkeeper, full-back or centre-forward?

2. As a player he starred for Brentford, Arsenal, Birmingham, West Ham, Plymouth and Orient and gained two England Under-23 caps. He is currently manager of a top Second Division club. Can you identify him?

3. This Fourth Division manager guided Stoke City to success in the 1972 League Cup Final against Chelsea at Wembley. Who is he?

4. The longest serving boss in the First Division, he had two spells as a player with Fulham and also starred for West Brom. Won 20 full England caps. What is his name?



TRUE or FALSE?

1. Leeds United's only Final success in the Football League Cup was when they beat Arsenal at Wembley 1-0 in 1969.

2. Kilmarnock play their home Premier Division games at Rugby Park and have won the old Scottish First Division Championship on one occasion.

3. Sheffield United's Stewart Houston is a full Northern Ireland international.

4. Notts County midfield star Don Masson (left) has played for three other League clubs ... Middlesbrough, Queens Park Rangers and Derby County.

5. Who scored both of Tottenham's goals in their 2-0 win against neighbours and rivals Arsenal at White Hart Lane on January 17th?

6. Is it Roy, Ray or Richard Baines who keeps goal for Scottish Premier Division club Morton?

7. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of one of the First Division's leading goalscorers ... RGYAHWSA (TNAOSLLIAV).

8. Does Gary Lineker play for Leicester City, Lincoln City or Luton Town?

ANSWERS

1. True
2. False — he is a Scotland international.
3. True or False? — They won the trophy in 1988 2-1.
4. True
5. Roy
6. Steve Archibald
7. Jimmy Bloomfield, manager of Ipswich Town.
8. Bobby Robson of Ipswich
9. Tony Robbins
10. Dermot
11. Gervase
12. Alan Cork
13. Gary
14. Steve Archibald
15. Roy
16. Steve Archibald
17. Gary
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19. Roy
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26. Roy
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98. Roy
99. Steve Archibald
100. Roy

...AND PRESENT

1. Alan Cork has been scoring regularly for which Fourth Division club this season?

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS: (3) Bodak. (4) Waldron. (11) Allen. (12) Era. (14) Caim. (15) Thud. (16) Port. (17) Dave. (18) Area. (20) Lock. (21) Roy. (22) Olive. (23) Jenkins. (26) Steel.

DOWN: (1) Foul. (2) Fair. (5) Allardice. (6) Dons. (7) Operation. (8) Lampard. (9) Hateley. (10) Larry. (13) Quick. (19) Cork. (24) Note. (25) Iced.

BIG BIG PROFITS with





I WROTE at the beginning of the season that if United didn't win the title then I hoped Ipswich did. With the season in its final third, I'm now confident the East Anglians will be Champions.

It's developing into a three-club race: Ipswich, Villa and Liverpool. Being realistic, if we are to win the title we mustn't lose another match and must win nearly all of them. It isn't beyond us, but the odds favour Ipswich now.

They still have some tricky away games, notably at Villa Park, Maine Road and Old Trafford. On the other hand, they're going so well they must fancy themselves against anyone, anywhere.

From my point of view Ipswich changed from possibles to probables when they drew at Anfield earlier in the season. To win the title it's imperative you don't 'give' Liverpool points. Ipswich went there, drew and by all accounts played very well.

I particularly like Ipswich's all-round ability. John Wark must be the luckiest midfielder in the country to play alongside the two Dutch midfielders Arnold Muhren and



'The day Ipswich arrived'

Frans Thijssen. To have scored 24 goals by mid-January, as John had, was a magnificent feat.

Frans is a neat player, who loves to take people on. Arnold has few peers when it comes to passing accuracy; add John's ability to win the ball and you have the ideal midfield.

Mind you, Ipswich have so many potential scorers. Also, when they've had players injured their momentum hasn't been broken, whereas Liverpool have creaked a little when two or three of their players have been out.

United gave Liverpool a good chase for their money last year and from my experience the time when the pressure really mounts is Easter. With two games in quick succession, a team can find itself with no points out of four, and that could be fatal as far as the title is concerned.

In this respect, Liverpool are the team best equipped to withstand the pressure as they've been there so many times. By their standards, though, they haven't played particularly well this season and their away record must disappoint them.

Villa, like Ipswich, must be very confident. I was impressed by the way they beat Liverpool not too long ago — they took the game to The Reds, which is what you must

do, rather than sit back.

Their back-four have done well and they have some underrated players, such as Des Bremner and Tony Morley.

I hope if Villa don't win the title this season that it doesn't have an adverse effect on them, being so near yet so far. I don't think it will, as the team has so much offer.

It's good to see Liverpool not having the Championship their own way. I admire them as much as anyone, but it's better for football in general that other teams taste glory, too.

Rubbish

I can't go along with those who believe it's not good for Championship contenders to be involved in Cups as well. That's rubbish. Winning is a great habit and the more games you win the more confident you become.

Once the habit is broken it can only be bad and the top three won't mind being involved in the F.A. Cup, League Cup, or UEFA Cup as well. Far from being a distraction it's beneficial.

One team I feel sorry for is this Saturday's opponents Leicester City, who we meet at Filbert Street. I've been in City's situation with

ABOVE 'Ipswich took the game to Liverpool when they travelled to Anfield and deserved their point in a 1-1 draw.'

BELOW 'Leicester (dark shirts) are as good as relegated already.'



Chelsea and it gave me nightmares.

Leicester, for all intents and purposes, are down, although there will still be that glimmer of hope as

long as it's mathematically possible to stay up.

Motivation isn't easy and it becomes even harder when it becomes definite that you'll be in the Second Division next season. Games seem to last four hours instead of one and a half.

What motivates players with struggling sides more than anything is their pride. However hopeless things are, a professional will always play for his pride and we know it won't be easy this weekend.

Although we've drawn a lot of games, we go out to win every time. I've seen quite a few of our matches that have ended all-square and with a bit of luck we could have won. Still, that's the difference between being up the top and just behind the leaders.

Now we are out of the F.A. Cup, a respectable League position is our only hope of qualifying for Europe. We can't afford to drop any more points.

Join me again in a fortnight.

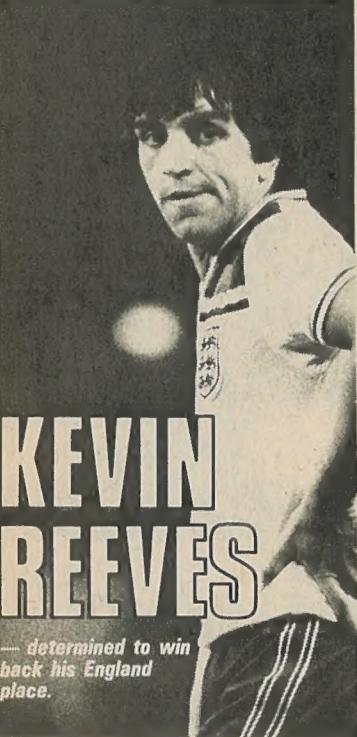
NEXT WEEK...

Who goes up with West Ham?

Players reveal their promotion favourites.

- F.A. Cup Fifth Round and Scottish Cup Fourth Round Previews.

- Steve Moran — Saints Dangerman.



KEVIN REEVES

— determined to win back his England place.

- Ian Bowyer — Clough's "star player" talks about his transfer to Sunderland.
- Part Three of the fascinating Paul Mariner Story.

IN COLOUR

Tottenham and St. Mirren team groups + Gordon Smith (Brighton) + Ken Swain (Villa) + Mike Duxbury (Man. United) + Focus on Mel Eves (Wolves).

PLUS...PLUS...PLUS...

Your chance to win an authentic Hamburger SV Adidas shirt personally autographed by the great Franz Beckenbauer.

AND... Ray Clemence, Gordon McQueen, Peter Shilton and Derek Johnstone.

SHOOT — the soccer magazine others still try to match — BUT CAN'T!

STEVE Foster, Brighton's giant centre-half, has a habit of bumping into things. Like Andy Gray's head and Justin Fashanu's elbow!

"I received a bad cut on the first day of the season, against Wolves," he says. "Andy and I went for a high ball and cracked our heads together. That left me with a two inch cut on my forehead."

"I had to go off, but I wanted to get back as soon as possible. They gave me an injection, but it hadn't worked properly when they put a couple of stitches in, so it was a bit painful. But when I got on the field again, the injection took effect. I didn't feel anything then."

With a huge white bandage across his brow, Foster looked like

The Seagulls have battled to establish their right to First Division status.

There have been disasters, like the 4-3 defeat at Everton, and triumphs, like the 1-0 home win over Ipswich, when Foster snuffed out the menace of Paul Mariner.

"I'm enjoying playing alongside Mark Lawrenson at the back. I think our styles go well together. We gave away some silly goals, especially at the start of the season, but we're getting it together now. He's got so much skill and he reads the game so well. Playing with someone like that every week can't be bad!"

Ironically, Brighton's First Division fight has given Steve's game a terrific boost. Defenders, like keepers, often perform best under

pressure. That was certainly true last term, when Seagulls' fans voted Foster their "Player of The Year". On the field he is a hard competitor.

Away from the action, he's the Goldstone's gentle giant. "I enjoy having a laugh and joke with the other players. This is a happy club. They all kid me because I'm lucky at cards."

'Joking'

"They say they're going to buy shares in me. We were at a reception the other week and they were joking about 'Lucky Fossie'. Just then they called out the raffle winners. Guess who got first prize?"

With luck like that, combined with his tremendous determination and competitive spirit, Steve Foster would be a safe bet to lead Brighton away from the First Division relegation zone towards the promised land of security among soccer's big boys.

And perhaps then he can make the England place his ...

FOSTER FOR ENGLAND!

a soldier in the heart of a battle. Grown men winced as he continued to win his duel in the air, the ball smacking into the plaster on his head. By the end of the game, he looked drained. His shirt was stained with blood. But he dismisses the incident with a shrug.

"I had a headache afterwards, but that was about all. I wanted to be there at the final whistle. It was the same when I got cut against Norwich. I went for a high ball with Fashanu that time. That was a bad one, but I'd rather finish a game, before getting patched up."

Foster's gutsy attitude is admired by Brighton boss, Alan Mullery, who has signed him on a ten-year contract.

'Character'

"Steve's a powerful player, with tremendous character. He's very competitive. He wants to win and that's the only attitude to have in this game," says Mullery.

"I think he should be England's next centre-half. He has the skill and he has the heart to succeed at international level."

"It's nice to hear the boss saying things like that," says Steve, "but I know the way to make your name is to do well for your club. That's what I'm concentrating on."

"But, of course, I'd be proud to play for England. You often hear of the pride of the Scots. Well, if I ever played for my country, I'd be as proud as any Scot has ever been. It'd be the biggest thrill of my life."

Foster, who Mullery signed from Portsmouth in the summer of 1979, has had a busy season, as

What a start! Foster, bandaged and bloody, after the Wolves game. But the season has looked up since then.



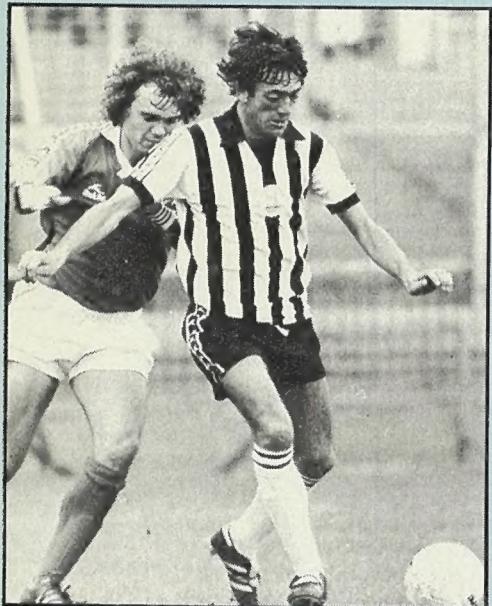


STEVE PERRYMAN (Tottenham)

"I felt when I moved from midfield to defence my game improved. I thought then I stood more chance of getting into the England team than ever before."

"If the England manager decided to experiment, and use a particular defensive set-up similar to the one I play in at Spurs, I certainly feel I'd be in with a chance."

"I've always been ambitious to play for England — fuelled by when people used to think I would join club-mates Martin Peters and Alan Mullery in the side one day!"



TERRY HIBBETT (Newcastle)

"MY old manager Joe Harvey once told me that Sir Alf Ramsey wouldn't be able to overlook me for long and that I was a must for England."

"Well, if I'd moved to Newcastle earlier in my career — which would have meant first team football — I would have got an Under-23 cap. I'm sure of that."

"My years at Leeds were wasted ones. And who's to say that if I'd made the Under-23 side, I wouldn't have reached the full team?"

THE NEARLY MEN

SO near . . . yet so far. There can be nothing more heartbreaking in the game than just missing out on international honours. Most fans have their own views on who are the unluckiest players of them all. SHOOT has been talking to five who narrowly missed the big-time boat.



JIMMY GREENHOFF (Crewe)

"WHY did I never win an England cap? I don't really know. Possibly it was because my best chance came around the time Don Revie was manager — and he had let me go from Leeds."

"I've often felt I could do the job. My brother Brian made it and tells me it is the biggest excitement imaginable."

"I won five England Under-23 caps and was confident I would go on to reach the top level. But it was not to be."

"My biggest ambition in the game was always to play for England."



BRYAN ROBSON (Sunderland)

"I WOULD have loved to play for England. It has always been my ambition to play for my country, but I reckoned at the age of 28 that my chances had almost gone."

"The last of my two England Under-23 caps came in 1969. I think that Sir Alf Ramsey wanted bigger fellows up front — the six-foot strong men who are able to tackle big defenders and are hard to knock off the ball in the box."

"I felt I did enough in 1972-73 when I finished the season as top First Division scorer with 28 goals."

"But had I become obsessed with the idea of playing for England, my club form might have suffered."

BILLY BONDS (West Ham)

"I feel most sorry for my father that I haven't played for England. He's followed me all over the place and it upsets him that I've never reached international level."

"I did win two Under-23 caps but I felt seven years ago that I would never achieve the ultimate honour."

"It would have happened two years before that."

"When I was called up to the England squad for a World Cup qualifying game against Italy in 1977, I wasn't too disappointed when I wasn't in the final selection. I only half expected to play..."



225 S/PORT BD



Former Aberdeen players but North London rivals, Tottenham's Steve Archibald (white shirt) is shadowed by Arsenal defender Willie Young